Hafa Adai!

Kilili joins call for USCIS emergency funding. PAGE 3

YouTube channel's Marianas videos garner 6.7M views. PAGE 6

75¢

Saipan Tribune

AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Small business owners beset by concerns, fears

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Salon owner Jackie Laguiman is stumped, whether she should keep her shop open or just shut down.

"I don't know what to do. Should I give up or continue on? It has been really tough for salon owners because

See SMALL on Page 4

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce held its first town hall meeting last Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom to give small businesses an opportunity to be heard about the challenges they are facing during the pandemic. BEA CABRERA

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1 tests positive upon arrival

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Mariana Resort now in full swing

One person has been confirmed positive for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19, bringing the CNMI's current case count to 47.

This latest case—a CNMI resident—was identified upon arrival through the incoming traveler screening, according to a statement last night from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Also, with the Kanoa Resort

See POSITIVE on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 6, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	389	8	397
Recovered	319	2	321
Active	63	8	71
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			24,016

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	46	1	47
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,301**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

66 candidates, 2 judges, 1 justice for retention

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Delegate Sablan unopposed for 7th term

Sixty-six persons have filed their candidacies, while two judges and a Supreme Court justice will be on the ballots for retention on the bench for the Nov. 3 general elections.

In a letter he sent to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez on Wednesday, Associate Justice Perry B. Inos notified the CEC of his intent to submit his name for reten-

See CANDIDATES on Page 4

CNMI to ask for remainder of $238M PUA funds

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Labor is in the process of requesting the remainder of the $238 million allocation from the U.S. Department of Labor, as part of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and

See PUA on Page 4

LANDFILL TOUR

Micronesian Environment Services LLC project officer James Benavente gives a tour of the Marpi landfill to members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications.

Story on Page 2 IVA MAURIN

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Docomo Pacific officially rolls out mobile 5G or 5th generation tech in the Marianas.

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NATION
U.S. testing for the coronavirus is dropping even as infections remain high and the death toll rises.

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WORLD
Investigators probing the deadly blast that in Beirut are focusing on possible negligence.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

New contractor gives lawmakers a tour of Marpi landfill

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications drove up to Marpi last Wednesday for a tour of the landfill, now being operated by Micronesian Environment Services LLC.

Committee chair Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan) took his committee members on the tour so they could see firsthand how the landfill is being operated.

"I want to have my committee have a better understanding of what the actual landfill is. …With this new contractor coming in, we want to make sure that…they're able to fulfill their duties as a contractor," he said.

MES project officer James Benavente gave an overview of the landfill and its operations, before leading the lawmakers to different sections of the facility, from the three engineered cells, down to the leachate treatment system, as well as showing them the different equipment used in the facility.

According to Benavente, there are four basic requirements of a sanitary landfill—a full or partial hydrogeological isolation, meaning the placement of a protective barrier between soil and the groundwater; formal engineering preparations, which means that studies had to be conducted prior to building the landfill, in terms of design, location, and operations, among others; permanent proper control, where the landfill should have trained and certified personnel on site, as well as proper equipment, at all times; and a planned waste emplacement and covering, which requires that trash entering the facility be spread into its correct thickness, compacted properly, and then covered.

"We like to think of the landfill as a construction site. Our operators are receiving trash, compacting it layer upon layer, technically building up something like a commercial, residential building. I also want to mention that the construction site is safe, clean, and time-efficient," he said.

During the tour, Benavente highlighted three cells. Cell 1, the largest of the cells, is being used for over 17 years now since 2003 and is nearly full, with only a leeway of up to 8 feet before it reaches its maximum 206-foot capacity; Cell 2, which will be used next, can be used up to 15 years; and Cell 3, which is already excavated and awaiting to be lined.

Components

Benavente also explained several components of the landfill operations, such as training and certification, grounds maintenance, waste disposal, and leachate management.

"Since we've gone in, we've [graded] access roads that are higher sloped. We… leveled them to ensure that storm water is diverted away from the trash," he said.

The operator is also required to maintain all perimeter fencing, and to erect litter control fences to catch and keep trash—plastic bags, cardboard, and paper that get caught up by the wind—from leaving the cells.

As for waste disposal, the process begins at the scale house, where vehicles are weighed for tipping fees to be determined. From there, depending on the type, the trash ends up either at the green waste disposal site, as construction and demolition waste, or as municipal solid waste, where wastes get bulldozed and compacted to save space and maximize the lifespan of the landfill.

The final component, leachate management, is basically pumping out and treating all the water that builds up in the landfill.

During the presentation, Benavente also shared with lawmakers that Micronesian Environment Services LLC's total projected operational cost is at $69,126 per month, a $69,125 savings from the monthly average cost of $172,999.87.

Members of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications—from left, Rep. Luis John Castro (Ind-Saipan), committee chair Rep. Marco Peter (R-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), and Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan)—pose with Micronesian Environment Services LLC project officer James Benavente, at the Marpi Sanitary Landfill Wednesday. IVA MAURIN

Planning and Development Advisory Council seeks public input for the CNMI visioning doc

The Planning and Development Advisory Council, through the Office of Planning and Development, is requesting community feedback and suggestions to support next steps in the creation of the CNMI Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan.

As required by Public Law 20-20, the CSDP shall serve as a guide for the future long-range development of the CNMI using and improving existing plans, maps and other resources; identify the goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the CNMI; provide a basis for determining priorities and allocating limited resources, such as public funds, services, human resources, land, energy, water, and other resources; improve coordination of federal, and CNMI plans, policies, programs, projects, and regulatory activities; and to establish a system for plan formation and program coordination to provide for an integration of all major CNMI and individual island activities.

To support these efforts, the public is encouraged to visit opd.gov.mp/news/public-notice/public-notice-request-for-comments-on-visioning-document/ to provide community feedback through the following:

■ Visioning Survey–Please take this survey to share specific feedback about your priorities that will be included in the CSDP.

■ Guiding Values Survey–This one question survey asks for the community to vote on or list new "core values" that are intended to provide a sense of direction for planning efforts.

■ Draft Visioning Document–Please review these draft vision statements and supporting goals and objectives and provide feedback –additional information and specific review questions are included in the document posted online.

OPD and the PDAC are requesting community feedback by Aug. 25, 2020, so that public comments can be incorporated into the next iteration of this Visioning Document. Send your comments to planning@opd.gov.mp.

To further support these efforts, virtual community meetings will be held in early September in order to share out a high-level summary of the Resources Report, which was used to identify needs and support the visioning and goal development process, as well as additional "visioning" e-meetings to help the CNMI chart a sustainable path forward.

Additionally, if you would like to conduct a survey or attend these meetings over the phone, email planning@opd.gov.mp or call (670) 488-1221 Monday through Thursday to schedule a time to conduct an interview or to learn more about the call-in process. ***(PR)***

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Kilili joins call for USCIS emergency funding

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has joined 77 of his Democratic colleagues to urge congressional leaders to provide emergency funding for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the next coronavirus package.

This comes soon after USCIS announced in June the possible furlough of 13,400 of its employees, following the sharp drop in the agency's revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In late July, the agency announced the delay of the furloughs to the end of August.

Sablan said in his e-newsletter that these furloughs would delay the processing of employment visas for foreign workers in the CNMI. With the number of businesses on island depending on foreign workers, services could also get delayed.

According to a U.S. Government Accountability Office report last February, a total of 11,093 CW-1 permits were approved in the CNMI in 2019, mostly from the Philippines at 7,379, followed by 2,408 from China, and then 447 from South Korea.

In the letter addressed to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, as well as other leaders, it said, "While the agency's financial status has improved significantly since its initial estimate of a $1.2-billion requirement, supplemental funding is still needed to ensure USCIS continues to fully operate through the first quarter of fiscal year 2021."

The lawmakers also stressed that alongside appropriating for an emergency funding, it is equally critical for them to establish firm parameters that would ensure that the funds will not be used to intimidate or discourage immigration.

"A direct appropriation may help keep fees from rising again. A direct appropriation in the next relief act will also keep USCIS from furloughing some 13,000 of its employees. That loss would delay processing of employment and family petitions and green card and refugee applications," Sablan said.

In their letter, the lawmakers also provided recommendations on USCIS' operations, including the prohibition on the use of USCIS fee resources to fund enforcement agencies, addressing redundant anti-fraud programs, and for authority to be provided to the agency to conduct swearing-in ceremonies immediately after a naturalization interview.

Just recently, USCIS implemented fee increases, such as from $460 to $695 for CW-1 permit applications, and from $710 to $945 for employers applying for a CW-1 permit.

2 ranking DOC officials sue after being furloughed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two ranking officials of the Department of Corrections are suing DOC Commissioner Wally F. Villagomez, Office of Personnel Management director Isidro K. Seman, and the CNMI government after they were allegedly unlawfully furloughed.

Corrections director Gregory F. Castro and Corrections Capt. Jose Tenorio Castro sued the three defendants for a declaratory and injunctive relief, violation of the Administrative Procedures Act, and deprivation of civil right under the CNMI Constitution.

The Castros, through counsel Joseph E. Horey, sued the CNMI government for unjust enrichment and conversion. The plaintiffs also sued Villagomez and Seman in their personal capacities for deprivation of civil right under U.S. Constitution.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from the defendants.

The DOC officials asked the Superior Court to declare their furloughs invalid and unlawful and to set them aside and order their reinstatement with back pay.

They also asked the court to prohibit the defendants from taking any further action against them without the legally prescribed procedures and affording them the right of appeal.

They also demanded restitution, unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

According to Horey in the complaint filed last July 31, Seman issued a memorandum to CNMI department heads last April 7 advising them to "furlough sufficient Civil Service employees for a one-year period, to reduce the governments personnel costs by 50%."

Horey said that, last April 16 and 17, Villagomez advised the Castros by letter that they were being placed on a temporary unpaid leave of absence expected to last through the next 12 months and they were told that this action was "not a reduction-in force or an adverse action" and that "there is no appeal process for this furlough."

Horey said no reason was given why either director Castro or Capt. Castro was selected for furlough, and the procedure prescribed by law for furlough or reduction-in-force were not followed.

In taking their actions, the lawyer said, Seman and Villagomez "acted with reckless indifference" to the proper selection of who would be furloughed.

Last June 30, the Castros demanded that they be reinstated to their former positions with back pay. Villagomez refused in a letter to the Castros last July 21.

Horey noted that the laws of the CNMI allow for temporary involuntary separation of civil service employees from their government employment by furlough. However, he said, the applicable law provides certain procedures to be followed, and affords a right of appeal to the furloughed employee.

In the case of Castros' furloughs, Horey said, the procedures prescribed by law were not followed, and the right of appeal was explicitly denied.

"Defendants' action as alleged were arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, contrary to constitutional right, in excess of statutory authority, short of statutory rights, without observance of procedure required by law, and not in accordance with law," the lawyer said.

By its conduct, Horey said, the Commonwealth has unjustly enriched itself at plaintiffs' expense, entitling the Castros to restitution.

By its conduct, he asserted, the Commonwealth has taken the Castros' property, in the form of the salaries due them, and wrongfully converted it to its own use.

By their action, Horey said, defendants deprived the Castros of property without due process of law, in violation of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and of the Article I, Section 5, of the CNMI Constitution.

Criminal case vs Zajradhara is dismissed

The Superior Court dismissed Wednesday the criminal case against Zaji O. Zajradhara, who was charged by the Office of the Attorney General after his wife claimed that he hit her head at their home in China Town.

Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja dismissed the case against the 57-year-old Zajradhara upon the OAG's request.

In the government's motion to dismiss filed Monday, assistant attorney general Erin Toolan asked the case's dismissal "in the interest of justice." No other details were provided in the motion.

The information charged Zajradhara with only disturbing the peace.

According to Toolan in the information, Zajradhara hit his wife with a towel or his hand. Police said the wife was crying while carrying her baby when police officers responded to the house last May 25. The wife was taken to the hospital after she complained of dizziness and head pain.

Zajradhara was arrested that same day, initially on charges of assault and battery, assault, and disturbing the peace.

Zajradhara reportedly claimed accidentally hitting his wife with a towel. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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SMALL

From Page 1

people are still scared to go out," she said.

That sentiment just about sums up the many fears and concerns that many small business owners in the CNMI raised during yesterday's "Small Business Open Town Hall Forum" hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom in Garapan.

Several business owners took to the floor and shared recommendations and current hurdles and fears in trying to run a business during the COVID-19 pandemic. Majority of the concerns include more cutback on operations due to CW-1 "touchback" requirement, streamlining the government's permit processes, and reducing permit fees that have recently gone up with no clear notice to business owners.

At the very least, some business owners simply want advise on how to do business during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Small businesses also said they want more federal support and funding in place and available and to see to it that existing federal funding is going to the correct and intended projects like the construction of roads, ports, and infrastructure.

They also want to encourage military personnel on Tinian to come to Saipan so they can spend money on the island. Initiating a campaign that bears positive messaging about the CNMI both within and outside, food security, encouraging and supporting business-to-business deals, and more regular meetings with small businesses to make sure they are always heard were also suggested.

Chamber board chair Velma Palacios echoed their sentiments and acknowledged that they need help with regards to the CNMI Prevailing Wage Survey that has expired and businesses need when petitioning a foreign worker.

"Many people are renewing their CW-1 right now and, since our PWS has expired, the U.S. Department of Labor is telling them to use the Guam rates or somewhere near the Guam rates…even on appeal," she said.

A panel, headed by Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, was in unison in saying that the challenges and recommendations of the people are being heard. "We also want to facilitate communication to small- or medium-sized businesses that are not a member of the Chamber so that they can also give us their thoughts," he said. "We are all in this together, not just the business sector but also the government. How are we going to help businesses flourish with this global disaster? How we look at it and do things will be totally different. …For every challenge, there are opportunities and maybe this is a time for us to look where we are coming short, be honest, and take up the challenge to improve our business community."

Aside from Palacios, Chamber leaders, and local business owners, the forum was also attended by House Speaker B.J. Attao (R-Saipan), House Tourism Committee chair Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Senate legislative secretary and Senate Committee on Judiciary Government Law and Federal Relations chair Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Governor's Council of Economic Advisers chair Jerry Tan, GCEA Tourism and Infrastructure Committee chair Alex Sablan, and GCEA Economic Diversification Committee chair Matt Deleon Guerrero.

Anti-litter laws

Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero also spoke during the forum and lobbied for stricter enforcement of the anti-littering laws.

"We have been picking up other people's mess. …I ask for more teeth into our laws to get more enforcement, then we would be a much better island. …Funding for beautification is ideal that would go into island beautification while there are no tourists," she said.

Connectivity

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada also shared at the event that the biggest challenge they're facing with remote learning are teaching devices and internet access.

"We need the two big internet providers on island…to help with internet access to the homes of the disadvantaged in order for us to continue and sustain education in our community," he said.

Ada also said that it is time to have programs on fishery and farming and embrace the farm-to-table concept for sustainability and humanitarian reasons.

POSITIVE

From Page 1

quarantine site already at full capacity, the former Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi opened its doors yesterday to inbound travelers and is now playing host to the 60 passengers from yesterday morning's flight.

According to Warren Villagomez, who heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, there were a total of 60 people in all that arrived yesterday but some came as a family or couple, so only 40 rooms are being used at the reef hotel of Marianas Resort. All these passengers came on the United Airlines flight yesterday.

The task force and CHCC assured that he latest case is safely in quarantine and was moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring. CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts (passengers on the same flight, close family members, friends, and associates) of the newly confirmed case.

Of the CNMI's total 47 confirmed cases, 23 cases (49%) have been identified through port-of-entry screening procedures. Of the 23 confirmed cases identified through travel screening, 19 cases originated from the U.S. mainland, one from a U.S. territory, and three from a foreign country.

The Mariana Resort quarantine site is currently being managed by Kensington Hotel Saipan. Villagomez said that the task force was able to obtain a hotel management contract with the company. When asked if there are staff from Kensington Hotel Saipan at the quarantine site, Villagomez said that there are management teams who will be there to keep eyes on the site.

Still, the required five-day testing for all incoming passengers will still be done at the Kanoa Resort and if the test results from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. laboratory show negative results, they would be releasing people on that same night, Villagomez said.

Villagomez said that they are trying to expedite testing at Kanoa Resort by setting up a small area in the courtyard for that purpose, so that those being tested won't have to be checked into the resort, while also complying with all precautionary measures.

"We're not checking them in anymore in the room. We need every room that we can have available so that's the new processors that we're having," said Villagomez. He added that CHCC, the task force, and Kanoa Resort will set up the small area that is comfortable enough where passengers getting tested can wait for their results.

The task force also clarified yesterday that all incoming travelers who are entering the CNMI to perform essential work and has submitted a request to enter the CNMI does not mean it is automatically approved. According to task force and CHCC statement, a notification email will be sent to the email provided during submission for approval or denial of request, and travelers should "plan accordingly."

A request for essential work should include a detailed description of the type of work that will be performed, and a brief scope of work justifying the need for travel into the CNMI, the organization's name and occupation with the organization, and the expected time frame of work start and completion dates.

"Essential work evaluations, approvals, and decisions are based on epidemiological factors and strength of work justification. As per the Governor's Executive Order and the COVID-19 Emergency Directives, the CNMI Health Official is able to make on the spot adjustments as needed," said the task force and CHCC statement.

PUA

From Page 1

the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation for the Commonwealth.

Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said at the radio media briefing Monday that, with the number of applicants, the department is looking at asking for more funding for the PUA program, stressing that they cannot go on overspending federal funds.

"Although we had requested $238 million in the very beginning, we were initially granted $70 million as startup funds, and so we're already in the process of requesting for the remainder of those," she said.

Benavente shared that, as far as the number of unemployed people in the CNMI, the latest data, which was in June, shows that there are about 6,000 to 7,000 unemployed individuals, which she expects to have already increased.

"Since June through July, I've received several more notices from employers who have informed the Department of Labor that they are closing operations until further notice, so I'm sure that number has increased," she added.

The department has targeted to disperse up to $10 million this week, for about 1,500 approved claimants under the PUA program.

The secretary also clarified that the Department of Labor does not mail any checks or make any deposits, stressing that they only process PUA applications and the approved ones get transferred up to the Department of Finance.

Benavente also tells those waiting for their paper checks to not go to the Department of Finance.

"Paper checks, those will be mailed out as they are processed by the Department of Finance. Again, in light of our COVID-19, the threat of that, and to make sure we stay on top of public health safety, we are trying to limit person to person contact," she said. "If you have a bank account that's on the application, deposits will go into your bank account. If you stated on your application [that] you want the paper check, those paper checks will be mailed out two weeks after the approval of the PUA application from the Department of Labor, and it gets transferred out to the Department of Finance."

CANDIDATES

From Page 1

tion. Inos' eight-year term as associate justice ends on March 8, 2021.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja and Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo have already informed CEC of their intent to run for retention.

Under a constitutional amendment, the question of whether justices or judges will be retained shall be put to a vote at a general election immediately before the end of that justice's or judge's initial term of office.

Villagomez said yesterday that the board has to certify the candidacies of the 66 as well as the two judges and one justice.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) is running unopposed for his 7th term in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The ruling Republican Party has fielded 21 candidates. The Democratic Party submitted 18 candidates, but will support three independent candidates: Delegate Sablan, Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona, and Rota Rep. Donald Manglona.

There are six other independent candidates: Rep. Luis John Castro, Rep. Joseph Arriola Flores, Rep. Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez, Glenn Hocog Manglona, Vincent Raymond Seman Aldan, and Joseph M. Mendiola.

There are 18 candidates for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota municipal councils, and Saipan and Rota Board of Education.

On Saipan, the GOP's candidate for Senate is incumbent Sen. Sixto Kaipat Igisomar.

GOP Saipan candidates for House are Rep. Joseph Leepan Tenorio Guerrero, Rep. Roman Cepeda Benavente, Angel Aldan Demapan, Roy Ada, Randall Dexter Pangelinan, Rep. John Paul P. Sablan, Daniel I. Aquino, Speaker Jonathan Blas T. Attao, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul, Rep. Jose Itibus, Rep. Marco T. Peter, Rep. Joel Camacho, Cecilia Taitano, vice speaker Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, and Ramon S. Basa.

For Tinian, the GOP candidate for the House is Patrick H. San Nicolas and Karl King Nabors for the Senate.

On Rota, the GOP bet for the Senate is Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Dennis James Camacho Mendiola and Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Barrie Toves for the House.

The Democratic Party's candidate for Saipan Senate is former Labor secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero.

The Democratic Party's Saipan candidates for the House are Rep. Ed Propst, Celina Babauta, Antonio Blas Cabrera, Benusto "Ben" Piteg, Peter Muna, Rep. Tina Sablan, Luella Marciano, Vicente Camacho, Alfred Saures, Corina Magofna, Denita Yangetmai, Rep. Sheila Babauta, Jenita Castro, Rep. Richard Lizama, and Leila Staffler.

For Tinian, the Democratic Party's Jose Cruz is running for a Senate seat, while Frederick Dela Cruz is seeking a House seat.

For Saipan Municipal Council, the candidates are Antonia Manibusan Tudela and Ana Demapan Castro.

For Tinian Municipal Council, the candidates are Thomasa Palacios-Mendiola, Joseph Romaldo Evangelista Santos, Michael Napu King Aldan, Jonovan Lizama, William A. Taitano, and Michael C. Sikebert.

For Rota Municipal Council, the candidates are Lorita Mesngon Manglona, Jim Michael Atalig, Joseph Manglona, Juanita Masga Mendiola, and Abraham Manglona Ogo.

For Board of Education representing Saipan, the candidates are Gregory Pat Borja, Stephen C. Woodruff, Maisie Tenorio, and Epiphanio E. Cabrera.

For Board of Education Rota, Herman Atalig is the lone candidate.

The position for the U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and 37 other government positions, including three from the Judiciary for retention, are up for grabs on Nov. 3.

The top seat for the election is the U.S. delegate to the House of Representatives, a position that has been held by Delegate Sablan since he was first elected in 2008.

For the CNMI House of Representatives, precincts 1 and 3 need six candidates each; for precincts 2, 4, and 5, they need 2 candidates each; and Rota and Tinian have one each.

For the CNMI Senate, Saipan, Tinian, and Rota need one each.

The Board of Education, Saipan and Rota have one seat each.

For the Municipal Council, three seats are available for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Mobil gives $5K to SFA for annual fishing derby

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

KRIZEL TUAZON
Mobil Oil donates $5,000 to the Saipan Fisherman's Association for the 36th Annual International Fishing Derby.

Mobil Oil Marianas Islands, Inc. doubled up its donation to the Saipan Fisherman's Association with a $5,000 check last Aug. 4, on top of the $2,500 it gave the association last Jan 13, with the money going to the SFA's 36th Annual Saipan Fishing Derby that was held last July 26.

"Mobil is again pleased to be a sponsor of the 36th Annual Saipan Fishing Derby and would like to commend the Saipan Fisherman's Association for its efforts in organizing this one-day derby and for the 58 boats that safely participated, as it was a nice to have a fun event for the community in this time of COVID-19," said Anthony Wenceslao, Mobil's area manager.

According to Wayne Pangelinan, SFA spokesperson, SFA's annual tournament also got donations from the Coral Reef Marine Center Guam, Marpac (with the 16-foot Mercury Marine boat that was up for raffle and other prizes), IT&E, Roil Soil Clothing, 4Ever CNMI, and Saipan Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods. All prizes were valued at over $30,000 in total, he added.

"Each year, Mobil Oil Marianas is a major sponsor for the Saipan International Fishing Tournament. For many years they continue to support SFA's tournament and have become one of the prominent sponsors throughout the years," said Pangelinan.

Last Jan. 13, Mobil donated $2,500 to the non-profit organization for their first wahoo tournament that was organized by the students under the mentorship of SFA, called "Tasi to Table." SFA will also be having a raffle on Dec. 12 at 3pm at the Saipan Smiling Cove Marina.

Additionally, Wenceslao stated that Mobil is also giving away $750 to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament as an Over Easy Sponsor for hole No. 13 in its efforts to raise funds for the SCC Scholarship Program.

Other Mobil donations are $2,500 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and 218 bags of rice and 2,534 bottles of water, valued at $5,284, to the Empty Vessel Ministry to be added to their care packages to community members in dire need of food.

"We care about the community, and we strive to make a positive contribution to support and strengthen our local communities," said Wenceslao.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-20-006

Archaeological Services for S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a sewerline replacement in Lower MIHA & the construction of a waterline replacement in San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

1. Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
   a. Background research design and work plan;
   b. Archival background information;
   c. Sample field investigation, and field survey;
   d. Past planning, research and studies;
   e. The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
   f. The degree of federal involvement;
   g. The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
   h. The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
   i. Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.

2. Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.

3. Deliverables
   a. 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
   b. Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked *"CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D & W Saipan, Inc. The list of officers for D & W Saipan Inc., are Hyeon Kyu Lee, as President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, as Vice-President/Director, and Sung Soo Lim, as Secretary/Director.

iii. The proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of D & W Saipan, Inc., mainly Hyeon Kyu Lee and Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of general automotive products, including but not limited to fuel products auto inspection, office, and warehouse space necessary to conduct business and other related purposes.

The term of the proposed lease extension agreement is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENDIN ATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresåo na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku henerål siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 090 D 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikonosimientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i D & W Saipan, Inc. I listan ufisiåt siha para D & W Saipan Inc., si Hyeon Kyu Lee, komu Presidenti/Direktot, si Ei Sook Kim Lee, komu Sigundu Presidenti/Direktot, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Sekritåriu/Direktot.

iii. I maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendin yan Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon ha tåttitiyi i regulasión DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i D & W Saipan, Inc., mayotmenti si Hyeon Kyu Lee yan si Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu ha' na rason nu mambendi yan nu "general automotive products," ingklusu låo ti chi'ña para "fuel products auto inspection," ufisina, o sino "warehouse space" nisisåriu para u makundukta i bisnis yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon inekstendi sa kinsi (15) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendi yan i Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL SÓBWEEYTÁL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwungubwungúl fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap isiis arongorong reel aar itittiw ngáli atkkilóónol ákkåáw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Alléghúl Toulap 15-2 ebwal ayoorai, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge Lot 090 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 3,000 square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil bwuléy eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge D & W Saipan, Inc. List-al officers ngáli D & W Saipan Inc., nge Hyeon Kyu Lee, bwe President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, bwe Vice-President/Director, me Sung Soo Lim, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/Director.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwung iye e Láálááyló me Aruwooowal Liiwel ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e tipifool fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwolsángi officers me directors-il D & W Saipan, Inc., spesiatemente Hyeon Kyu Lee me Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwuléy ngáli akkaméélól me angaangil "general automotive products", e bwal schuulong nge ese mwutch ngáli "fuel products auto inspection", bwulasiyo, me "warehouse space" iye e ffil ngáli rebwe ffééru mwóghutughutúl "business" me ákkááw mwóghut ikka e toolong.

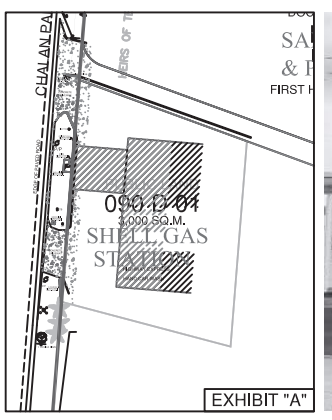
Pommwol abwungubwungúl llálááyil atkkilóón nge seigh me limoow ráágh.

pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw ebwal schuulong "applicable percentage" reel "Business gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol Llálááyil Abwungubwung me Aruwoowal Liiwel ngáli Pommwol Atkkilóón emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay me Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Elúwel 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



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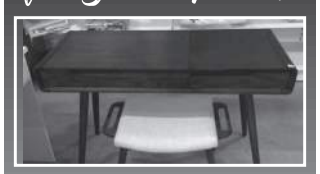

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YouTube channel's Marianas videos garner 6.7M views

Ongoing production of the YouTube channel "Deer Meat for Dinner" in the Marianas has garnered nearly 7 million views.

The series, hosted by Robert Arrington, features hunting, fishing, diving, and cooking of wild game. The show first visited the Marianas in 2018 and has returned to film episodes in most of the 14 islands in the Marianas archipelago. Fifteen episodes filmed in the remote and sparsely populated Northern Islands have garnered over 6.7 million views and 18,000 comments since they were posted over the last month.

"We are rewarded by the strong interest 'Deer Meat for Dinner' is generating with its latest episodes highlighting the remote and pristine Northern Islands," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Not only are viewers able to see the unique wild game and rich fishing in the Northern Islands, but they are also being given a chance to see the Marianas way of life, our rich history, and stunning natural scenery."

"Deer Meat for Dinner" YouTube host Rob Arrington includes a visit to a World War II crash site on the remote island of Pagan in a recent episode filmed in July 2020. MVA

Images and video footages are being shared online, offline, and via other social media channels including Facebook, Instagram, and Naverblog.

"I didn't know Saipan existed," commented one viewer.

Recent uploads include a tour of Pagan and its World War II structures. The battle in the Marianas was a strategic victory for American forces advancing across the Pacific toward Japan.

"I know that our servicemen from World War II are moving on in life at a very quick rate right now. Very few of them are left," said Arrington. "But man, just standing here amongst this makes me so proud to be an American. We won this battle. ...It wasn't easy, it was deadly, and it was hard, but it was worth it."

"Thank you for sharing the Island of Saipan," commented another viewer. "My Dad was stationed there during WWII and told me lots of stories about it. I wish he was still here to watch this series with me."

The first nine episodes on the Marianas filmed on Rota and Saipan two years ago have also garnered over 13 million views to date. In addition to the "Deer Meat for Dinner" episodes, raw footage from the production will be provided to the MVA for its additional marketing and promotions usage.

The "Deer Meat for Dinner" program can be viewed at YouTube.com/c/deermeatfordinner, or type "Deer Meat for Dinner" in the YouTube search bar. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT EXPLOSIVE DETECTION SYSTEMS REPLACEMENT PROJECT,** SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Explosive Detection Systems Replacement Project for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-006-16" and submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020, to the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to replacement of the two existing Explosive Detections System (EDS) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport with a new temporary baggage facility for the temporary conveyors/EDS machines including all associated work, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Transportation Security Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FIVE HUNDRED FORTY (540) calendar days**.

Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED ($1,500.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the departure terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (US $250.00) for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

Each bidder shall file at the Office of the Executive Director, CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, a written notice of intention to bid using the Intent to Bid Form on LP 2 of the specifications, or similar, at least seven **(7) calendar days** prior to the date designated for the opening of bid proposals.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **10:00 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020**, at the Saipan Airport Conference Room to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as face wear a mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted to the CPA Executive Director at the CPA Administration Office, in writing, at least fourteen (14) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 30, 2020

American Bar backs equality in federal programs, voting rights for territories

The American Bar Association has added its voice in support of equality for residents of U.S. territories when it comes to participation in federal programs and the right to vote. This support comes through two resolutions introduced by the Virgin Islands Bar Association that were overwhelmingly adopted by the full ABA House of Delegates at this year's virtual Annual Meeting. Anthony Ciolli, past president and delegate of the Virgin Islands Bar Association, spoke in favor of both resolutions to the ABA House of Delegates and helped shepherd their passage.

"The ABA's support of equal rights in U.S. territories highlights how long-neglected issues facing residents of U.S. territories have become more mainstream throughout the United States," said Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, which advocates for equality and civil rights for the 4 million Americans living in U.S. territories. "I appreciate the leadership of the Virgin Islands Bar association and Anthony Ciolli in raising these concerns to the highest level of the legal profession," Weare added.

Hours before Tuesday's landmark decision in *Pena Martinez v. US Department of Health and Human Services*, the ABA House of Delegates approved Resolution 10B supporting the equal application of federal benefits to residents of U.S. territories. Earlier, the ABA House of Delegates approved Resolution 10C supporting the expansion of voting rights in U.S. territories. The resolution reflects arguments raised by Equally American in *Segovia v. United States*, filed on behalf of residents of Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. ***(PR)***

Jury selection is cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "17ES" that the Jury Selection scheduled for Monday, Aug. 10, 2020, at 8:30am and 12:30pm is cancelled until further notice. For more information, contact Clerk of Court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at 235-4258. ***(PR)***

VEHICLES FOR SALE
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Last day for sale is August 14, 2020 at 3:00pm. For more information, please call Loans Department at 235-6294. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.
Bank of Saipan
Marianas Pride

2019 International Coastal Cleanup CNMI

1,617
volunteers participated

9,427 lbs.
of trash collected

76
locations cleaned

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Saturday SEPTEMBER 19

Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Pollution

Locally led by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest single-day cleanup event with the goal of collecting and documenting trash littering our coastlines and waterways. Volunteers from states and territories throughout the U.S. and over 100 countries worldwide come together every year and participate in the cleanup event near them. The two layers of science and community service is what distinguishes the ICC from everyday cleanups. The data collected during the ICC is entered into Ocean Conservancy's Global Trash Database and is crucial to solving the world's ocean pollution problem.

Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

SIGN UP TODAY AT www.dcrm.gov.mp

For more information, contact the ICC Coordinator
Colleen Flores
cflores@dcrm.gov.mp
(670) 664-8300 / 8316

mina
Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance

SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO DCRM'S WEBSITE!

Scan me

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff, vs. DIANA M. QUIITUGUA, Defendant.	Civil Action No. 10-0261 SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 20th day of September, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendant, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **24th day of September, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 326 R 14, (part of Lot 326 R 13, which was part of Lot 326 R 08, part Lot 316 R 02, part original Lot 316 R 01), containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing / Cadastral Plat No. 326 R 00, the original of which recorded on June 2, 1998 as Document No. 98-1643 at Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing or by email with full name and complete signature to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: robert.torres@rttlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Bidders are to contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 3rd day of August, 2020.

/s/
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff, MPLT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: LILY A HOCOG, Deceased.	Civil Action No. 11-0197 NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of the Order Granting MPLT's Second Petition to Sell Real Property Secured by Mortgaged to Satisfy MPLT's Claim against the Estate entered in the above titled action on July 02, 2020, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust from Descendant Lily A. Hocog. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on **September 24, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.,** at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room in Capital Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 330 R 035, containing an area of 859 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Land and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 330 R 02 dated March 13, 1992, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 92-858, dated March 16, 1992, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference

Terms and Conditions of Sale.
1. Public Sale: The auction shall be open to the general public
2. With Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
5. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which will revert to the Marianas Public Land Trust.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of July, 2020.

/s/
ROBERT T. TORRES, F0197
Auctioneer

Woman gets 3 years in prison for drug trafficking

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman accused of selling methamphetamine on Saipan pleaded guilty last Wednesday in the Superior Court and was slapped with a three-year prison term.

Xuefen Lang, 43, pleaded guilty to trafficking of a controlled substance as part of a plea deal with the government.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced Lang to six years imprisonment, all suspended except for three years, without the possibility of parole, early release, weekend release, or other similar programs.

Lang was given credit for 31 days of time served in jail. After completing her sentence, she will be placed on supervised probation for three years, during which she is barred from drinking alcohol or using controlled substances.

At the hearing, Lang, through an interpreter, admitted that she was dealing with methamphetamine and stated she made a mistake. She also stated she never tried smoking methamphetamine.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig served as counsel for the defendant. Assistant attorney general Chester Hinds represented the government.

According to the plea deal, Lang was caught dealing in illegal drugs last May 20, 2020 on Saipan. The original information charged Lang with three counts of trafficking of a controlled substance.

According to the report of police officer Melvin D. Cadiang of the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force, they received information that an Asian woman known as Mom is actively selling methamphetamine or "ice."

Cadiang said that DETF officers, along with a cooperating defendant, tried to buy methamphetamine worth $450 from Mom, later identified as Lang, outside a poker arcade in Garapan last Feb. 26. DETF officers, however, found out during tests that the substance that Lang had handed over to the cooperating defendant was fake.

Last May 20, DETF officers, using the cooperating defendant, was able to purchase $350 worth of one gram of substance, which tested positive for methamphetamine during a transaction in Garapan.

Private schools meet for resumption plans

With majority of private schools planning to resume classes on Aug. 17, 2020, with at least a partial face-to-face presence, the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools have been meeting regularly to plan a combined response to address the ongoing health emergency.

Thanks to the hard work of the CCOPS COVID subcommittee, the COVID-19 Task Force, and the guidance from the CNMI Policies and Procedures for COVID-19 Prevention and Control in Educational Institutions, as prepared and provided by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' COVID-19 Task Force, private school leaders have worked hard to develop plans to minimize health risks and maximize educational opportunities for the islands' 2,000 private school families.

Many schools will host orientation activities and open house information sessions before the official start. During these sessions, students and parents will receive important information and training on school protocols for the current health emergency. School leaders would like to express their gratitude to Torres and the COVID-19 task force for their hard work in putting measures in place to protect islands residents and for developing protocols for the safe reopening of schools. ***(PR)***

MVA swears in 6 board members

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune
REPORTER

Two newly elected members were sworn into the Marianas Visitors Authority board, while four current board members were also sworn for another term during the MVA's board meeting in San Jose last Aug. 5.

Board members Marian Aldan-Pierce will remain as chairwoman, Gloria Cavanagh will remain as vice chairwoman, Agida Quitugua will remain as secretary, while re-elected director Chris Nelson will take over as treasurer. Masato Tezuka, Japanese Society of Northern Marianas president who is also on the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, and Ivan Quichocho, TanHoldings executive, are the newly elected board members.

Aldan-Pierce said the board also needs to create a finance committee and a personnel committee, and to focus on destination enhancement. According to her, this will be a big part of their objective for this and next year.

As of right now, there are currently no marketing promotion. "There's no market but it's actually very key that we have that discussion with offshore and the current situation that we are in," said Warren Villagomez, who is another board member.

Since Villagomez heads the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, he was nominated to participate in marketing, as well to give suggestions given "the new norm of COVID-19."

"I know we've all kind of wonder what tourism is going to look like here in the near and far future and everyone I talked to is always brainstorming on what we could possibly do in the near- and long-term," said Nelson.

Nelson suggested during the public comments portion of the board meeting if the task force is comfortable with the idea of having small universities ship some students to the islands as part of a "in-person school" where they could study marine biology and more per semester.

Aldan-Pierce said this is something for the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers to look into since they're looking for a new business ideas for the CNMI. Additionally, since the islands have about 2,200 hotel rooms to fill, Nelson said it would take 5,000 kids to fill up every hotel room. He added that the students will have to quarantine, if the "in-person school" were to happen.

"The students could come in quarantine at the hotel and a two-week quarantine isn't so bad if you're staying for months in a place," said Nelson. "That's something we could talk about as a community if that's something that the task force could be comfortable with."

Although this is just a thought, bringing this idea to the economic council will help it look for "different businesses." "The governor's advisory board, basically has a committee...and they're looking to different businesses for the CNMI, and that is a start," said Cavanagh.

Record of Decision for the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Supplemental EIS/OEIS

Notice of Availability

The U.S. Navy, after carefully weighing the strategic, operational, and environmental consequences of the Proposed Action, announces the release of the Record of Decision to continue training and testing activities within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) Study Area.

Record of Decision

The Record of Decision documents the Navy's decision to continue training and testing activities within the Study Area as described in the MITT Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS under Alternative 2, the Preferred Alternative.

The Navy made its decision after considering the potential impacts training and testing activities may have on the human, natural, and cultural environments, as well as comments from elected officials, government agencies, organizations, and the public on the proposal and environmental analysis.

The Navy is committed to being a good steward of the environment and will implement mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential environmental impacts from training and testing.

For More Information

The Record of Decision, Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, and supporting documents are available online at www.MITT-EIS.com.

The Record of Decision has been sent to mayors' offices in the villages of Hagåtña, Mangilao, and Dededo on Guam, and mayors' offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for public viewing.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: SERAFIN ANGUI AMIREZ Decedent.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0256 NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR and NOTICE TO CREDITORS Date: September 3, 2020 Time: 10:00 am Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE SERAFIN ANGUI AMIREZ:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Byung Soo Jun, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Serafin Angui Amirez and to appoint him as the Administrator. The attorney for Mr. Byung Soo Jun is Colin M. Thompson.

The hearing on the Petition for Letters of Administration and Appointment of Administrator is scheduled to be heard on September 3, 2020 at 10:00 am in Guma' Hustisia Supreme Court Courtroom, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against Serafin Ramirez or hisestate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within **Sixty (60) days** of the first publication, or the claims will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to:

THOMPSON LAW, LLC
2nd Floor J.E. Tenorio Building
PMB 917 Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670)233-0777
Fax: (670)233-0776
Email: Cmtlaw@live.com

SO ORDERED this 6th day of August, 2020.

HON. JUDGE JOSEPH N. CAMACHO
Associate Judge

Kilili to Torres: Provide accounting of $1.2M election funding

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Congress gave the CNMI $1.2 million to run the upcoming election in November and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) wants a full accounting of it.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Sablan noted the over a $1 million in funding provided to the Commonwealth to secure the elections, and for the Commonwealth Elections Commission to use to resolve possible barriers to voting given the pandemic—an amount much larger than the $300,000 the commission usually need to hold an election. The funding was allocated to the CNMI through the Consolidated Appropriations Act in December, and through the CARES Act in March.

"Because of the attention Congress is now giving to the conduct of elections and in the interest of accountability for public funds, I write to ask that you provide a full accounting of how the $1.2 million you have received has been spent," Sablan said.

According to him, Congress intended the funds to be used to upgrade voting equipment, conduct election auditing activities, make online registration available, strengthen cybersecurity, better track campaign financing, and implement vote-by-mail for all voters. "Funds can also be used to increase voting sites to reduce crowding and keep in-person voters healthy," said Sablan.

"With elections just three months away, it would be good to know that you have taken action to ensure that voters in the Marianas have these protections in place to secure the integrity of their ballots and to stay well," the delegate added.

At a meeting with the CNMI House of Representatives last week, CEC stated that they are in the process of acquiring brand new machines for tabulation, through the Help America Vote Act, and that they intend to purchase personal protective equipment through the CARES Act money.

Last April, the governor asked the U.S. Election Assistance Commission for $600,000 from the CARES Act money that he said the CNMI will use to buy Personal Protective Equipment and thermal scanners, to disinfect the polling places, and for mailing and postage of the ballots, among others.

"The CEC will ensure that voting security and integrity remains paramount, but also, making sure that our voters and employees are safe and adhere to proper social distancing protocols and practice strict hygiene. …Again, as the CNMI and nation confronts this invisible virus, we need to take every extra pre-cautionary measure to mitigate and prevent its further spread and ill-effects," Torres had said.

The CNMI will be voting in the 2020 general elections on Nov. 3, Tuesday. The last day to register to vote for this election is on Sept. 4, Friday. For more information on the election, visit https://www.votecnmi.gov.mp.

MV *Micronesian Navigators* to assist ship stranded in Woleai

» Regular field trip to Chuuk state postponed

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—On Aug. 5, 2020, Federated States of Micronesia President David W. Panuelo, responding to a request from Yap Gov. Henry S. Falan, confirmed that the MV *Micronesian Navigators* will delay its regular field trip to Chuuk to instead provide immediate assistance to citizens stranded on the MV *Hapilmohol-1*, which is presently located in Woleai Atoll.

The H-1, which was conducting a routine "Student Run" to escort children and families to their homes in preparation for the new academic year, has suffered from issues with its generators. The passengers on the H-1 are safe but operating the H-1 in the open ocean could potentially risk the safety of the FSM citizens onboard.

"After consideration of the nature of the problems with the generators," Falan said in his letter to the President, "and the possibility of total failure of both generators on its way back in open water, the ship being low on fresh water to cool the engine and serve the needs of its passengers and crews...we have no other alternative but to request for a backup vessel [to provide] urgent assistance."

With the MV *Caroline Voyager* presently inoperable, the only vessel the FSM national government has in its possession that can presently accommodate the request from Yap is the MV *Micronesian Navigators.* Panuelo has instructed the Department of Transportation, Communication & Infrastructure to postpone its regular field trip to Chuuk so that it may respond to the needs of the H-1 and the FSM citizens onboard.

"The *Micronesian Navigators* is now preparing to depart Pohnpei, heading straight to Woleai, on Aug. 8," Panuelo wrote in his response. The expected arrival date of the *Micronesian Navigators* in Woleai is Aug. 12, 2020. ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Susupe Community Garden town hall meeting today

Residents are invited to a town hall meeting at the Susupe Community Garden on Tramoha Avenue today, Aug. 7, 2020, at 5:30pm, to discuss how best to manage and take care of the garden. Physical distancing will be observed; please wear a face mask and feel free to bring your own chair. For more information, contact Patty Coleman of NMC CREES at 237-6840. ***(PR)***

CHamoru commission meeting set

The *Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' i Taotao Tåno'* (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will hold its first monthly meeting on Aug. 13, 2020, Thursday from 12:3pm to 3:30pm on a Zoom meeting. Call Roland Blas, Kumisión secretary, for special accommodations, Zoom link information and agenda at 480-4047 or email at rolandblas1973@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Financial aid available for NMC's fall 2020 semester

Financial aid is available for new and ongoing students who are pursuing their college studies through Northern Marianas College.

A qualified individual can receive up to $6,345 in federal financial aid for the academic year if they submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form before the fall semester starts on Aug. 17, 2020.

To fill out a FAFSA form, individuals can log on to studentaid.gov or download the free myStudentAid app available on the Google Play Store and the App Store. A paper-based form is also available.

Those who need assistance in filling out the FAFSA form can contact any of NMC's financial aid staff below:

Daisy Manglona-Propst
Director, Financial Aid
Tel: (670) 237-6792
daisy.propst@marianas.edu

Verna Y. Deleon Guerrero
Financial aid counselor
Tel: (670) 237-6793
verna.dlguerrero@marianas.edu

Colleen R. Villagomez
Financial aid specialist
Tel: (670) 237-6794
colleen.villagomez@marianas.edu

Roy Luie A. Alegre
Financial aid specialist
Tel: (670) 237-6791
roy.alegre@marianas.edu

For more information about registering for classes for the upcoming fall 2020 semester or to apply for admission, contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6768/6769/6771 or visit www.marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

UOG study: Cycad size and habitat contribute to plant's survival when faced with invasive flora

A *Cycas micronesica* tree in Guam, right, shows the extent of damage done by invasive insect herbivores, a scale called *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*, as compared to a healthy *Cycas micronesica* tree, left, found in Yap. In a 15-year study, published in the May 2020 issue of Diversity journal, researchers studied the rate and influences of mortality in Guam cycads affected by invasive species.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

A long-term study in Guam and Micronesia's native and threatened species of cycad plant has revealed factors that contribute to the plant's ability to survive in the face of invasive species.

Research out of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at the University of Guam and College of Micronesia-FSM shows that the *Cycas micronesica* population in Guam declined to 4% of its population size from 2005 to 2020 following the introduction of the non-native scale insect, *Aulacaspis yasumatsui*, in 2003, and the cycad-eating butterfly, *Chilades pandava*, shortly thereafter. Of the few cycads that survived or survived the longest, plant size and habitat traits were key.

"Guam's *Cycas micronesica* was the most abundant tree [in] Guam two decades ago, but then an onslaught of non-native insect herbivores invaded the island and initiated sweeping mortality," said Adrian Ares, associate director of the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center.

The plant variety is also found on the Northern Mariana Island of Rota, the Federated States of Micronesia island of Yap, and Palau, though the two invasive herbivores are not present in Yap or Palau.

In establishing 120 permanent plots where the plant grows in Guam in 2005 and examining them over 15 years, the researchers found that 100% of seedlings were killed by 2006 and 100% of juvenile plants were killed by 2014. The persisting plants were larger individuals that possessed substantial stored resources.

"The means by which the invasion of an island by a non-native herbivore can wreak such havoc is actually two-fold," said Murukesan V. Krishnapillai, a research scientist at the College of Micronesia-FSM and one of the authors of the study. "First, the native tree that is attacked by the new pest has spent millennia evolving without a comparable herbivore and, therefore, possesses few defensive strategies. Second, the pest has escaped from its own native habitat, where it co-evolved with natural enemies, and, therefore, the new island environment contains no natural enemies to tamp down the pests' population growth."

The study also illuminated two other spatial factors that have influenced the plant population's response to the non-native insect herbivore threats. First, the populations in Western localities have exhibited much higher mortality than the populations in Eastern localities. Second, the plants within large contiguous forests have exhibited less damage than plants within forest fragments.

The long-term nature of the study, which Ares said is rare in contemporary academia, and the use of benchmarking starting in 2005 were crucial in understanding how rapidly threats can devastate island tree populations.

Knowing that plant size and habitat traits influence cycad susceptibility to non-native threats can now inform conservation management decisions.

"Conservationists need developing knowledge like this to craft the most appropriate mitigation strategies and identify where available funds should be spent," Ares said.

The study concluded that the only high priority activity to conserve the *Cycas micronesica*species where the scale and butterfly are present is to establish a complex integrated biological control program under the direction of scientists with international expertise.

The study is published in the May 2020 issue of Diversity, a peer-reviewed journal published by MDPI. ***(UOG)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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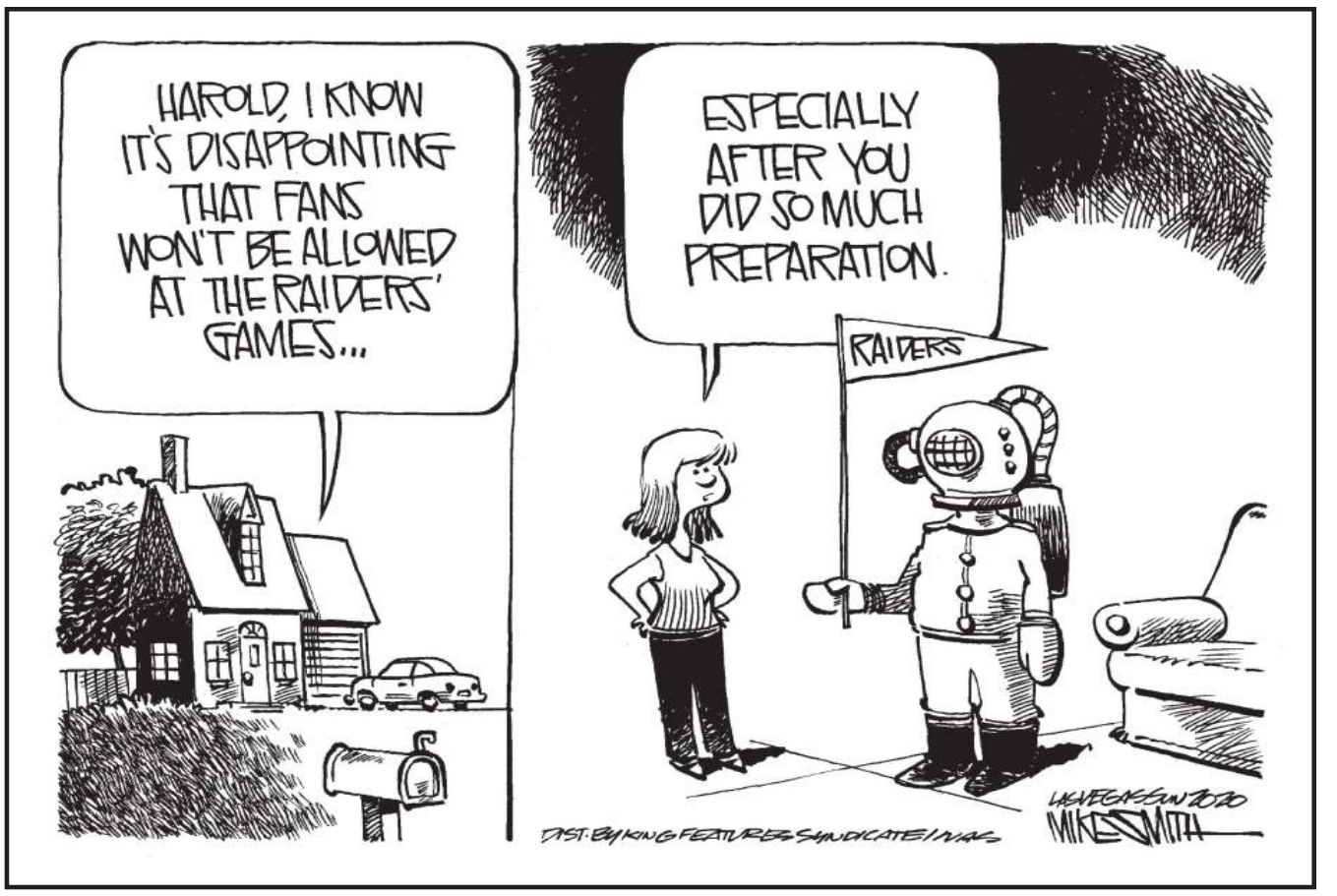
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association


HAROLD, I KNOW IT'S DISAPPOINTING THAT FANS WON'T BE ALLOWED AT THE RAIDERS' GAMES...
ESPECIALLY AFTER YOU DID SO MUCH PREPARATION.
RAIDERS
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LAS VEGAS SUN 2020
MIKE SMITH

EDITORIAL

Crises highlight racial inequity

By SISTER SIMONE CAMPBELL
Tribune News Service

Sister Simone Campbell is executive director of NETWORK, a Catholic social-justice advocacy organization. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.

If there is any blessing in the medical and financial crises brought about by COVID-19, it is the light they've shone on our tragic economic inequality. And the United States' bold reckoning with race has broadened the meaning of that inequality and heightened the urgency to confront it.

Low-income and Black, Latinx and Native Americans are more likely than wealthy whites to contract coronavirus, more likely to die from it and more likely to lose a job due to the recession. Meanwhile, U.S. billionaires—overwhelmingly white and male—have seen their fortunes swell by more than $700 billion during the first four months of the pandemic.

Much discussion, introspection and, for communities of faith, prayer, are needed to plumb the depths of the moral failing that led to this deadly inequality. But there are clear, practical, public actions we can take right now to alleviate suffering and build a community of equal opportunity.

First, the government should stop giving billionaires and other rich people even more money. That may sound obvious, given the needs of the sick and poor in a nationwide pandemic. But the biggest coronavirus relief package so far, March's CARES Act, gave three times as much ($135 billion) in one tax break to millionaires than it spent on safety net programs ($42 billion).

Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation says the average recipient of this "Millionaires Giveaway" will enjoy a $1.6 million tax cut this year alone. Compare that with the $1,200 checks given to most Americans.

Congress and the president should enact a massive new COVID-19 aid package, including substantial federal support for collapsing state and city services.

The Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions, or HEROES, Act passed by the House of Representatives in May allocated $875 million to overwhelmed state and local governments. It would also extend and improve the unemployment benefits that are keeping millions of households afloat, and offer another, more generously distributed round of $1,200 coronavirus payments.

The HEROES Act also repeals the Millionaires Giveaway, thus raising nearly $250 billion.

See CRISES on Next Page

Hong Kong is bracing for a new era of deadly repression

By GWYNETH HO
Los Angeles Times

Gwyneth Ho is a pro-democracy activist in Hong Kong.

As a pro-democracy activist in Hong Kong, I have publicly opposed the draconian new national security law imposed on the city by the Beijing government in June. Precisely because I oppose that law, the government of Hong Kong has ruled that I do not qualify to run for a seat on the Hong Kong Legislative Council, the city's legislature.

The new law, which has been the cause of mass protests, would criminalize free speech, subject protesters to imprisonment, allow searches without court warrants and permit certain trials to be closed to the media and the public.

The government's perverse rationale for my disqualification on the ballot is that my opposition to the security law means I would not "genuinely and truthfully" uphold the Basic Law, the mini-constitution of Hong Kong.

Eleven other candidates—including four sitting members of the legislature—have also been barred from running in the election, which had been set for Sept. 6. On Friday, the Hong Kong government postponed the elections for a year to further undermine the pro-democracy opposition.

Elections are the bulwark of democracy. But in Hong Kong, they have now been turned into a mechanism to suppress the voice of the people. The screening of opposition candidates in the name of disloyalty to the city's constitution; disqualifications of pro-democracy legislators; arrest of legislators for their acts within the chamber, and now, an arbitrary postponement of elections are brute authoritarian tactics.

That Beijing would resort to these means with the whole world watching reveals the insecurity of a superpower in handling dissidence in a city of 7 million. But the fight is not over.

The Legislative Council, known as the LegCo, has substantial power to disrupt the rule of the Hong Kong government. This is why the electoral system is designed to prevent a majority that is not obedient to Beijing—half of the seats are not elected by popular vote, but by eligible voters of "functional constituencies," many of them Beijing loyalists.

However, the democracy movement that took to the streets last year to oppose a proposed extradition law has shifted public opinion so radically against the government that there may be a chance for the opposition to win the majority for the first time.

Last November, the pro-democracy camp won 86% of the contested seats in the city-wide district council elections. The results emboldened the opposition camp to see a viable path toward winning a majority in the LegCo.

An opposition majority would be the nightmare scenario for Beijing. While a pro-democracy majority would not have enough power to pass laws it introduced, it would be able to veto all government proposals and budget.

Beijing reacted frantically, passing the national security law to circumvent Hong Kong's legislation process. But the law has proved insufficient to contain the call for change: On July 11-12, more than 600,000 voters voted in the primary elections for the pro-democracy camp despite repeated threats from the government that even participating in the primaries could result in prosecution.

This sent a clear message to Beijing that even with the threat of the national security law, it could not prevent the possibility of a pro-democracy majority in the legislative elections. Hence, Carrie Lam, Hong Kong's chief executive, resorted to postponing the elections, using the coronavirus pandemic as her excuse.

The postponement has raised serious concern: Will it be the end of democratic elections in Hong Kong?

Canceling elections altogether does not serve the purpose of Beijing. The Chinese leaders want to maintain a facade of democracy but they need the results to be totally under their control—without any opposition candidates. In the coming year, much could be done to shift the political landscape to Beijing's favor. Even if an election were held next year, it would not in any way represent the will of the people.

First, the government could amend electoral laws. Lam has already suggested setting up polling stations in mainland China, where a considerable population of pro-Beijing elderly Hong Kong voters currently reside. This is a formula that would almost certainly lead to unchecked election fraud.

Second, the security law could be used broadly to imprison activists. Potential candidates like me may be targeted by that law and other criminal statutes. Two of my fellow pro-democracy candidates are now being charged with rioting; by September next year, they may already be in jail.

The survival of the democratic movement in Hong Kong now depends on whether the people can overcome the national security law, both with courage and coordinated actions. Hong Kong has to brace for a new era of deadly repression. But I believe there is hope in our resilience given what this city has already endured.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hezbollah will not escape blame for Beirut

By HUSSEIN IBISH
Bloomberg Opinion

Hussein Ibish is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, D.C.

As if the Lebanese haven't suffered enough. For months, they have been caught between an economic meltdown, crumbling public services and a surging pandemic. Now they must count the dead and survey the extensive damage to their capital after two giant explosions on Tuesday.

The blasts, especially the second, were so huge they were reportedly heard and felt in Cyprus. More than 100 people are reported to have been killed—that number will almost certainly rise—and thousands injured. A large expanse of the port and its immediate neighborhood lies in smoking ruin; miles away, streets are full of shattered glass.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government says the explosions were caused when careless welding ignited about 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly combustible material used as fertilizer and for bomb-makings. By comparison, Timothy McVeigh used about 2.4 tons of the same chemical in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The 2015 disaster in the Chinese city of Tianjin was caused by the explosion of 800 tons of ammonium nitrate.

The equivalent of 2,000 Oklahoma City-sized bombs could indeed account for the devastation and the reddish mushroom cloud that plumed gaudily over the Beirut port. But it doesn't mean Lebanese will simply accept that the explosion was an unavoidable, force majeure event.

Assuming the official account holds up, the disaster again exposes the rot that is destroying the country—an especially corrosive mix of corruption, ineptitude and malign intentions.

The ammonium nitrate was apparently seized in 2013 from a Moldovan-flagged ship traveling from Georgia to Mozambique. But someone—who, we don't yet know—brought it into Beirut; instead of returning, auctioning or disposing of it, the port management inexcusably allowed it to be stored there for years.

There are no prizes for guessing who in Lebanon might be interested in keeping such vast quantities of explosive material close at hand. The U.S. Treasury and Israel both believe Hezbollah controls many of Beirut's port facilities.

Diab, whose government is entirely dependent on political support from Hezbollah and its Maronite Christian allies, has vowed to hold those responsible to account. More than likely, some minor officials will be fingered for permitting improper storage of highly dangerous material.

Iran-backed Hezbollah, with its large and well-armed militia as well as its political hold on the prime minister, has nothing to fear from the state. But it will not escape public opprobrium: Most Lebanese will assume the ammonium nitrate belonged to the militia, for use in Syria and against Israel.

Why the chemicals exploded is another matter, rich with possibilities of conjecture. In the court of public opinion, the usual suspects will be rounded up from the ongoing shadow war between Iran and Hezbollah on one side and Israel on the other. President Donald Trump, who can be relied upon to make everything worse, speculated it was a deliberate attack. This will be picked up and amplified by conspiracy theorists in the Middle East.

But suspicions of Hezbollah's culpability will intensify on Friday when a United Nations special tribunal for Lebanon that has been looking into the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is expected to issue verdicts in cases against four Hezbollah cadres being tried in absentia. The men are in hiding, and have not been seen in years; even if they are found guilty, no one expects them to be handed over. Hariri, remember, was killed in a massive blast.

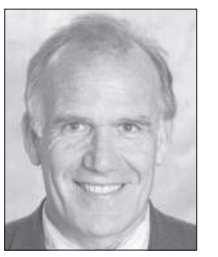
A guilty verdict would increase domestic pressure on Hezbollah, its allies and the government. When Lebanese have finished mourning their dead, anger will return—the kind that fueled the massive street demonstrations that brought down Diab's predecessor last October.

Even without the Beirut blasts, the timing of the verdict would have been awkward for Diab, who is struggling to negotiate an economic bailout with the International Monetary Fund: Among the hurdles is Hezbollah's resistance to the necessary reforms.

Hezbollah finds itself uncomfortably positioned as the principal backer of the government presiding over a thoroughgoing collapse of the Lebanese state and society. It will not easily shake off blame for the Beirut blast, or for the Hariri assassination. Even in this country that has suffered so much and for so long, the latest of Lebanon's tragedies will not soon be forgotten, nor its perpetrators forgiven.

Our annual August debate over the bombs

By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service



Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, and the author of The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict Was Fought and Won, *from Basic Books. You can reach him by emailing authorvdh@gmail.com.*

This month marks the 75th anniversary of the dropping of two atomic bombs on Japan, at Hiroshima on Aug. 6, and Nagasaki on Aug. 9.

Each year, Americans argue about our supposed moral shortcomings for being the only nation to have used an atomic weapon in war.

Given the current cultural revolution that topples statues, renames institutions, cancels out the supposedly politically incorrect and wages war on America's past, we will hear numerous attacks on the decision of Democratic President Harry Truman to use the two terrible weapons.

But what were the alternatives that Truman faced had he not dropped the bombs that precipitated Japan's agreement to surrender less than a week after the bombing of Nagasaki and formally on Sept. 2?

One, Truman could have allowed Japan's wounded military government to stop the killing and stay in power. But the Japanese had already killed more than 10 million Chinese civilians since 1931, and perhaps another 4 million to 5 million Pacific Islanders, Southeast Asians and members of the Allied Forces since 1940.

A mere armistice rather than unconditional surrender would have meant the Pacific War had been fought in vain. Japan's fascist government likely would have regrouped in a few years to try it again on more favorable terms.

Two, Truman could have postponed the use of the new bombs and invaded Japan over the ensuing year. The planned assault was scheduled to begin on the island of Kyushu in November 1945, and in early 1946 would have expanded to the main island of Honshu. Yet Japan had millions of soldiers at home with fortifications, planes and artillery, waiting for the assault.

The fighting in Japan would have made the prior three-month blood bath at Okinawa, which formally ended just six weeks before Hiroshima, seem like child's play. The disaster at Okinawa cost the U.S. 50,000 casualties and 32 ships—the worst battle losses the American Navy suffered in the war. More than 250,000 Okinawans and Japanese soldiers were killed as well.

Just the street fighting to recapture Manilla in the Philippines in early 1945 cost a quarter-million Filipino, Allied and Japanese lives.

Three, the U.S. could have held off on using the bomb, postponed the invasion and simply kept firebombing Japan with its huge fleet of B-29 bombers. The planes soon would have been reinforced with thousands more American and British bombers freed from the end of World War II in Europe.

The napalming of Tokyo had already taken some 100,000 lives. With huge new Allied bomber fleets of 5,000 or more planes based on nearby Okinawa, the Japanese death toll would have soared to near a million.

Four, the U.S. might have played rope-a-dope, stood down and let the Soviet Red Army overrun China, Korea and Japan itself—in the same fashion that the Russians months earlier had absorbed eastern Germany, the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

But the Soviet occupation of North Korea alone only led to more war in 1950. Had the Soviets grabbed more Japanese-occupied territory, more communist totalitarianism and conflict likely would have ensued, with no chance of a free and democratic postwar Japan.

Five, Truman could have dropped a demonstration bomb or two in Tokyo Bay to warn the Japanese government of their country's certain destruction if it continued the war.

But there was no guarantee that the novel weapons, especially the untested plutonium bomb, would work. A dud bomb or an unimpressive detonation at sea might have only emboldened the Japanese to continue the war.

There were likely only three bombs ready in August. It was not clear when more would be available. So real worries arose that the Japanese might be unimpressed, ignore the warning and ride out the future attacks in hopes there were few additional bombs left.

In the cruel logic of existential war, demonstrating rather than using a new weapon can convey to autocratic belligerents hesitancy seen as weakness to be manipulated rather than as magnanimity to be reciprocated.

By August 1945, six years after the start of World War II in Europe, some 70 million had died, including some 10 million killed by the Japanese military. Millions more starved throughout Asia and China due to the destruction and famine unleashed by Japan—a brutal military empowered by millions of skilled civilian industrial workers.

To Americans and most of the world 75 years ago, each day in early August 1945 that the Japanese war machine continued its work meant that thousands of Asian civilians and Allied soldiers would die.

In the terrible arithmetic of World War II, the idea that such a nightmare might end in a day or two was seen as saving millions of lives rather than gratuitously incinerating tens of thousands.

It was in that bleak context that Harry Truman dropped the two bombs—opting for a terrible choice among even worse alternatives.

CRISES

From Page 10

The relief package Senate Republicans finally unveiled in late July fails to meet the moment. It contains no general aid to local governments, drastically cuts unemployment benefits, leaves the Millionaires Giveaway in place and does little to narrow racial income gaps.

Though still embroiled in our multiple emergencies, we must consider how best to employ the relative calm that will eventually return. The current crises spotlight our nation's economic and racial injustice, but they did not create it.

For the past 40 years, American tax and spending policy has widened divides between rich and poor, Black and white, private gain and public pain. By repeatedly cutting taxes on the rich and corporations, and then attempting to cover the lost revenue through cuts to services that support working families, the federal government has abrogated its most basic duties to the people.

Such coldhearted and shortsighted policies fail to promote the general welfare, fail to establish justice and fail to create a more perfect union.

We can do better—and in these perilous times, we must. We can end special tax breaks and set tax rates so that the richest people and most profitable corporations pay their fair share. With the significant revenue raised, we can build a fairer society and stronger economy, so that America works for everyone, not just the mostly white families on top.

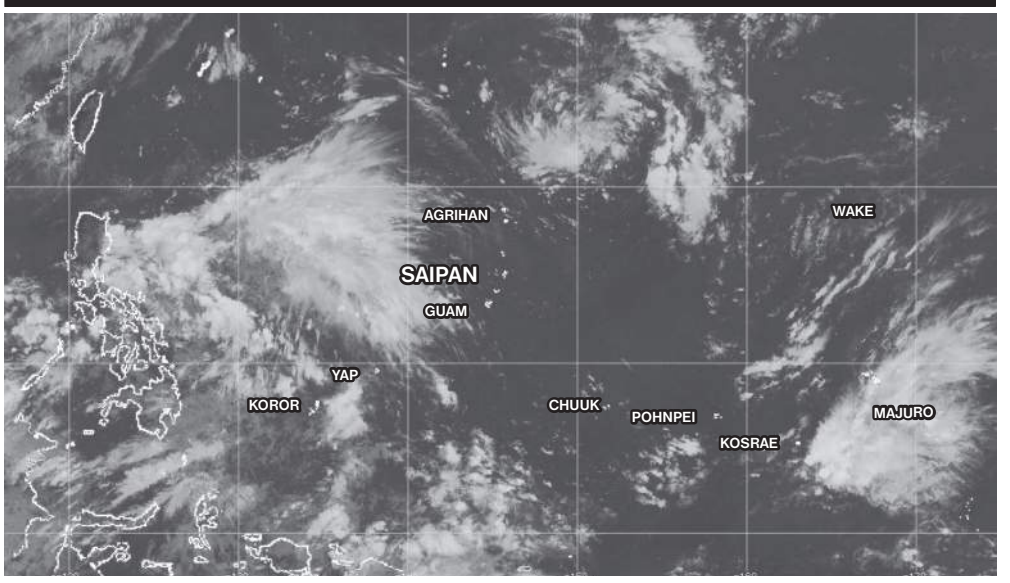
In short, we can do more than survive our tribulations—we can emerge better from them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers
90° 79°	90° 79°	88° 76°	88° 76°	88° 76°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Early morning satellite and radar show scattered showers across the region with a surface trough moving to the west. A few thunderstorms are seen well to the west of Guam. Upper-level shear above 35kft is helping to inhibit thunderstorms locally. Buoys show seas on a downtrend and now hovering between 4 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:00 AM	6:44 PM
Saturday	6:01 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:46 AM	9:22 PM
Saturday	-	9:33 AM	9:57 PM
Sunday	-	10:19 AM	10:32 PM
Monday	-	11:05 AM	11:08 PM
Tuesday	-	11:52 AM	11:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°
Beijing	Showers	90° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 84°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	81° / 66°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 43°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Showers	77° / 70°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	90° / 81°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	90° / 79°
Rome	Sunny	100° / 75°
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	88° / 75°
Tokyo	Windy	88° / 79°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	81° / 70°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:17 AM	LOW TIDE	1.12
9:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.86
4:16 PM	LOW TIDE	0.28
10:51 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.90

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❏ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❏ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❏ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❏ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

DOCOMO launches 5G technology in the Marianas

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPODNENT

DOCOMO Pacific set a precedent in Guam and the CNMI yesterday as they officially rolled out mobile 5G or 5th generation technology along with the unveiling of the DOCOMO 5G Open Lab. 5G technology is designed to connect everyone to make calls, receive messages. and surf the world wide web faster and clearer in the palm of their hands.

BEA CABRERA

DOCOMO Pacific president and CEO Roderick Boss at yesterday's virtual launch of their mobile 5G Technology.

According to DOCOMO Pacific president and CEO Roderick Boss, Guam and the CNMI may be small markets with just over 200,000 total population, but it is a sophisticated market. "Consumers in businesses demand the highest quality and latest services networks and devices. I think part of why we are so advanced because we are pushed by competition," he said.

"The intense competition is what drives us to work tirelessly to provide our subscribers with amazing products and services and unmatched customer experience everyday with the products that keep you connected with the things that matter most. Enhancing the quality of your connections and empowering you to connect new ways through 5G is just an example how we deliver our products," he added.

For more information, visit DOCOMO Pacific on Gualo Rai Middle Road or call (670) 483-227.

Since it is new, consumers ask how fast is 5G going to be? DOCOMO Pacific director of Segment Marketing Keo Torre said it will be 10 times faster than your average home internet speed. "Up to 250 mbps download and up to 15 mbps upload… now that the mobile 5G has landed, we are rolling out with a 'hotspot' approach, really taking a look and picking strategic areas to deliver that superfast 5G experience that we are looking to grow in the islands for the years to come," he said.

"The 5G 'hotspot' on Saipan is located at the Paseo De Marianas and in Guam at Inos Plaza and Ypao Beach Park. The goal is to select these 'hotspots' that are accessible, on an open space which makes it easy to adhere to social distancing guidelines .. but also places that people go to have fun," he added.

DOCOMO Pacific's 5G mobile technology is compatible with Samsung Galaxy S20 series, S20 plus, S20 Ultra, and LG phones specifically LGB50. "We have ongoing promos with the Samsung S20 series at the store that people can avail of," Torre said.

"If you are team (Samsung) Galaxy, there are specific Note20's dropping in the near future. If you are Team Apple, the next mobile devices Apple will be launching are 5G capable," Torre added.

Boss said that the road to DOCOMO Pacific's 5G has been an exciting one as it started in March 2019. "We opened the DOCOMO 5G open lab Guam and this was created with the shareholders and serves as a full 5G lab. Local and international partners have come to test and develop practical solutions and use cases in a 5G environment. It the only Docomo 5G lab out of Japan."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOCOMO Pacific launched its mobile 5G technology yesterday and unveiled the first DOCOMO 5G lab out of Japan.

"5G is more than speed. It's the gateway for Guam and the CNMI to enter the next level of innovation and technology. Think self-driving vehicles, fully integrated home IoT, VR and AR for a remote-learning video connection so clear your kids feel as if they're physically in the classroom. There are many promising opportunities in the near future. We are proud to be the first to provide you with 5G coverage and promise to be with you every step of the way to our 5G future."

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Gone for good? Evidence signals many jobs aren't coming back

WASHINGTON (AP)—Stark evidence of the damage the resurgent viral outbreak has caused the U.S. economy could come Friday when the government is expected to report that the pace of hiring has slowed significantly after a brief rebound in the spring.

As the coronavirus continues to transform a vast swath of the economy, it's becoming evident that millions of Americans face the prospect of a permanent job loss that will force some to seek work with new industries or in new occupations. If so, that would lead to a slower recovery in the job market than if restaurants, hotels, bars and retail shops were able to fully reopen and recall all their laid-off employees. Few expect that to happen.

On Friday, economists expect the government to report that employers added 1.6 million jobs in July, according to data provider FactSet, and that the unemployment rate declined from 11.1% to a still-high 10.5%. At any other time, a million or more jobs would constitute an unheard-of increase. But July's expected gain would fall way short of June's 4.8 million increase and would signal that hiring has sharply slowed. It would also mean that the economy has regained barely 40% of the jobs that fell to the coronavirus.

The pandemic has lasted far longer than most Americans expected, with likely profound consequences for the economy. Traditional retail stores will probably never regain their pre-pandemic levels of sales or employment as consumers increasingly turn to internet purchases. Online health care will likely eliminate some doctors' office jobs. And online videoconferencing will replace some portion of business travel. Those changes alone could destroy millions of jobs.

Michelle Holder, a labor economist at John Jay College, said it's unlikely that many retail workers and others whose jobs are gone for good will find work this year, given that the viral outbreak will hold back hiring until a vaccine is widely available.

"It's definitely going to be a drag on the economy," she said.

Capitol negotiators still stuck, still trying on virus aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—After more than a week's worth of meetings, at least some clarity is emerging in the bipartisan Washington talks on a huge COVID-19 response bill. Negotiators are still stuck, but still trying.

A combative meeting Wednesday involving top Capitol Hill Democrats and the postmaster general and a souring tone from both sides indicate that a long slog remains, and White House chief of staff Mark Meadows threatened afterward that President Donald Trump is exploring options to use executive authority to extend a partial eviction ban and address unemployment benefits.

After some movement Tuesday in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's direction on aid to states and local governments and unemployment insurance benefits, Wednesday's session offered no breakthroughs or major progress, participants said afterward.

"If we can reach a compromise on these big issues, I think everything else will fall into place. If we can't reach an agreement on these big issues then I don't see us coming to an overall deal," Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said after the two-hour meeting. "And then we'll have to look at the president taking actions under his executive authority."

Multiple issues remain, but some areas of likely agreement are coming into focus.

Here's a look where things stand based on public and private statements by key players and their staff:

JOBLESS BENEFITS

Pelosi is staking out a hard line on extending a $600-per-week supplemental pandemic federal jobless benefit, which lapsed last week. Republicans offered to extend the benefit into December and cut it to $400, according to aides confirming leaks reported in Politico. The aides were unauthorized to discuss the private talks and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The unemployment insurance issue is perhaps the most important to resolve, but some Senate Republicans up for reelection this fall appear comfortable with yielding on the question.

AID TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Similarly, the White House has offered Democrats $150 billion in new appropriations to help state and local governments alleviate revenue losses from the damage the coronavirus has wrought on the economy. That matches the amount appropriated after a huge behind-the-scenes battle during negotiations on the bipartisan $2 trillion coronavirus bill that passed in March. Much of that original money is left over, and all sides want greater flexibility in using it, but Pelosi is demanding far more—almost $1 trillion—and key Republicans like Susan Collins of Maine, Cory Gardner of Colorado and Mitt Romney of Utah are pressing for more money as well.

Nation

Virus testing in the US is dropping, even as deaths mount

AP
Cars wait in lines, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020, at a COVID-19 testing site outside Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla.

U.S. testing for the coronavirus is dropping even as infections remain high and the death toll rises by more than 1,000 a day, a worrisome trend that officials attribute largely to Americans getting discouraged over having to wait hours to get a test and days or weeks to learn the results.

An Associated Press analysis found that the number of tests per day slid 3.6% over the past two weeks to 750,000, with the count falling in 22 states. That includes places like Alabama, Mississippi, Missouri and Iowa where the percentage of positive tests is high and continuing to climb, an indicator that the virus is still spreading uncontrolled.

Amid the crisis, some health experts are calling for the introduction of a different type of test that would yield results in a matter of minutes and would be cheap and simple enough for millions of Americans to test themselves—but would also be less accurate.

"There's a sense of desperation that we need to do something else," said Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute.

Widespread testing is considered essential to managing the outbreak as the U.S. approaches a mammoth 5 million confirmed infections and more than 157,000 deaths out of over 700,000 worldwide.

Testing demand is expected to surge again this fall, when schools reopen and flu season hits, most likely outstripping supplies and leading to new delays and bottlenecks.

Some of the decline in testing over the past few weeks was expected after backlogged commercial labs urged doctors to concentrate on their highest-risk patients. But some health and government officials are seeing growing public frustration and waning demand.

In Iowa, state officials are reporting less interest in testing, despite ample supplies. The state's daily testing rate peaked in mid-July but has declined 20% in the last two weeks.

"We have the capacity. Iowans just need to test," Gov. Kim Reynolds said last week.

Jessica Moore of rural Newberry, South Carolina, said that after a private lab lost her COVID-19 test results in mid-July, she had to get re-tested at a pop-up site organized by the state.

Moore and her husband arrived early on a Saturday morning at the site, a community center, where they waited for two hours for her test. Moore watched in the rear-view mirror as people drove up, saw the long line of cars, and then turned around and left.

"If people have something to do on a Saturday and they want to get tested, they're not going to wait for two hours in the South Carolina heat for a test, especially if they're not symptomatic," Moore said.

Before traveling from Florida to Delaware last month, Laura DuBose Schumacher signed up to go to a drive-up testing site in Orlando with her husband. They were given a one-hour window in which to arrive.

They got there at the start of the window, but after 50 minutes it looked as if the wait would be another hour. Others who had gone through the line told them that they wouldn't get their results until five days later, a Monday, at the earliest. They were planning to travel the next day, so they gave up.

"Monday would have been pointless, so we left the line," Schumacher said.

The number of confirmed infections in the U.S. has topped 4.7 million, with new cases running at nearly 60,000 a day on average, down from more than 70,000 in the second half of July.

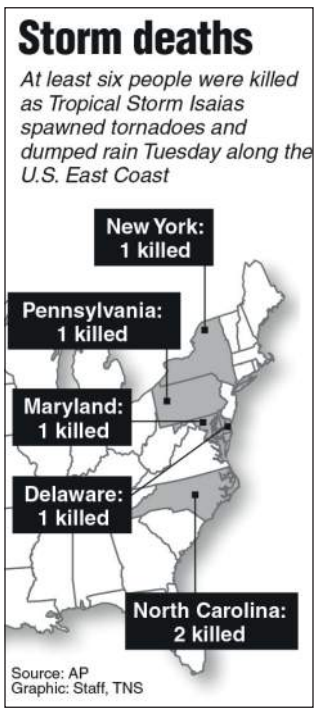
U.S. testing is built primarily on highly sensitive molecular tests that detect the genetic code of the coronavirus. Although the test is considered the gold standard for accuracy, experts increasingly say the country's overburdened lab system is incapable of keeping pace with the outbreak and producing results within two or three days, the time frame crucial to isolating patients and containing the virus.

Death toll rises, mass power outages after storm destruction

WINDSOR, N.C. (AP)—At least nine people, including a 5-year-old girl with autism, were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias battered the U.S. East Coast with rain and fierce winds after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina. Millions of people were without power on Wednesday after felled trees downed power lines.

The sound of generators and chainsaws punctuated the sunrise in New Jersey, where more than 1 million homes and businesses were without electricity. NJ Transit train service remained suspended while crews cleared about 150 trees and repair signals and overhead wires.

Regional rail service was also suspended in Philadelphia after Isaias raised the Schuylkill River and sent an unsecured construction barge into a bridge. Inspectors were checking for damage. Interstate 676, which crosses the bridge, was also closed in both directions.


Storm deaths
At least six people were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias spawned tornadoes and dumped rain Tuesday along the U.S. East Coast
New York: 1 killed
Pennsylvania: 1 killed
Maryland: 1 killed
Delaware: 1 killed
North Carolina: 2 killed
Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Patrick Foye, chairman of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said more than 2,000 trees fell across the system's train and bus network.

"This storm caused severe damage," Foye said Wednesday. "Not since Superstorm Sandy has our system experienced this type of wind."

Two people died when Isaias spun off a tornado that struck a North Carolina mobile home park. Another person died in Pennsylvania when their vehicle was overtaken by water and swept downstream. The 5-year-old girl had gone missing from her Philadelphia-area home during the height of the storm Tuesday and was found dead Wednesday. Authorities said they believed she was swept away by floodwaters in the creek behind her house.

Three others were killed by falling trees toppled by the storm in Maryland, Connecticut and New York City, and another person died in Delaware when a tree branch fell on them, authorities said. A woman was found dead inside a New Hampshire house Tuesday evening.

Isaias sustained top winds of up to 65 mph (105 kph) more than 18 hours after coming ashore, but it was down to 40 mph max winds as of early Wednesday, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Isaias toggled between hurricane and tropical storm strength as it churned toward the East Coast. Fueled by warm ocean waters, the storm got a late burst of strength as a rejuvenated hurricane with top sustained winds of 85 mph (136 km/h) before coming ashore late Monday near Ocean Isle Beach, North Carolina. Its tropical storm status was sustained, but weakened, as it headed north into Canada on Tuesday night.

Before making landfall late Monday, Isaias killed two people in the Caribbean and battered the Bahamas before brushing past Florida.

Tornadoes were confirmed by the National Weather Service in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Power outages also spread as trees fell, with more than 2.1 million customers without electricity across multiple states as of Wednesday night, according to PowerOutage.US, which tracks utility reports.

Chasm grows between Trump and government coronavirus experts

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the early days of the coronavirus crisis, President Donald Trump was flanked in the White House briefing room by a team of public health experts in a seeming portrait of unity to confront the disease that was ravaging the globe.

But as the crisis has spread to all reaches of the country, with escalating deaths and little sense of endgame, a chasm has widened between the Republican president and the experts. The result: daily delivery of a mixed message to the public at a moment when coherence is most needed.

Trump and his political advisers insist that the United States has no rival in its response to the pandemic. They point to the fact that the U.S. has administered more virus tests than any other nation and that the percentage of deaths among those infected is among the lowest.

"Right now, I think it's under control," Trump said during an interview with Axios. He added, "We have done a great job."

But the surge in infections, hospitalizations and deaths tells a different story. And it suggests that the president is increasingly out of step with the federal government's own medical and public health experts.

The U.S. death toll, which stands at more than 156,000, is expected to accelerate. The latest composite forecast from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projects an average of nearly 1,000 deaths per day through Aug. 22.

Dr. Deborah Birx, White House coronavirus task force coordinator, warned this week that the virus has become "extraordinarily widespread."

Trump didn't like that. He dismissed her comment as "pathetic" and charged she was capitulating to criticism from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who had earlier criticized Birx.

Adm. Brett Giroir, the assistant secretary of Health and Human Services, who has avoided contradicting the president throughout the crisis, said on Sunday it was time to "move on" from the debate over hydroxychloroquine, a drug Trump continues to promote as a COVID-19 treatment even though there is no clear evidence it is effective.

Asia

Survivors mark 75th anniversary of world's 1st atomic attack

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP)—The dwindling witnesses to the world's first atomic bombing marked its 75th anniversary Thursday, with Hiroshima's mayor and others noting as hypocritical the Japanese government's refusal to sign a nuclear weapons ban treaty.

Mayor Kazumi Matsui urged world leaders to more seriously commit to nuclear disarmament, pointing out Japan's failures.

"I ask the Japanese government to heed the appeal of the (bombing survivors) to sign, ratify and become a party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons," Matsui said in his peace declaration. "As the only nation to suffer a nuclear attack, Japan must persuade the global public to unite with the spirit of Hiroshima."

His speech highlights what survivors feel is the hypocrisy of Japan's government, which hosts 50,000 American troops and is protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella. Tokyo has not signed the nuclear weapons ban treaty adopted in 2017, despite its non-nuclear pledge, a failure to act that atomic bombing survivors and pacifist groups call insincere.

The U.S. dropped its first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945, destroying the city and killing 140,000 people. The U.S. dropped a second bomb three days later on Nagasaki, killing another 70,000. Japan surrendered Aug. 15, ending World War II and its nearly half-century of aggression in Asia.

Survivors, their relatives and other participants marked the 8:15 a.m. blast anniversary with a minute of silence.

Thursday's peace ceremony at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park was scaled down because of the coronavirus pandemic. The fewer than 1,000 attendees was one-tenth of those attending in past years.

Some survivors and their relatives prayed at the park's cenotaph before the ceremony. The registry of the atomic bombing victims is stored at the cenotaph, whose inscription reads "Let all the souls here rest in peace for we shall not repeat the mistake."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in his speech at the ceremony, said Japan is committed to nuclear weapons ban but a nuclear free world cannot be achieved overnight and that it has to start from dialogue between opposite sides.

"Japan's position is to serve as a bridge between different sides and patiently promote their dialogue and actions to achieve a world without nuclear weapons," Abe said. Nuclear policies are divided amid a harsh security environment, so it is necessary to create common ground first, he said.

An aging group of survivors, known as hibakusha, feel a growing urgency to tell their stories, in hopes of reaching a younger generation.

On the 75th anniversary, elderly survivors, whose average age now exceeds 83, lamented the slow progress of nuclear disarmament.

They expressed anger over what they said was the Japanese government's reluctance to help and listen to those who suffered from the atomic bombing.

"Abe's words and actions don't seem to match," said Manabu Iwasa, 47, who came to the park to pray for his father, a survivor who died at age 87 in March. "Japan apparently sides with the U.S. and make more effort toward nuclear weapons ban," he said. "It's frustrating, but there is not much we individuals can do."

Keiko Ogura, 84, who survived the atomic bombing at age 8, wants non-nuclear states to pressure Japan into signing the nuclear weapons prohibition treaty. "Many survivors are offended by the prime minister of this country who does not sign the nuclear weapons prohibition treaty," she said.

Matsui urged world leaders, especially those from nuclear weapons states, to visit Hiroshima and see the reality of the atomic bombing.

AP

People pray in front of the cenotaph for the atomic bombing victims before the start of a ceremony to mark the 75th anniversary of the U.S. bombing in Hiroshima, western Japan, early Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020.

Kim directs aid to North Korean town under virus lockdown

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un directed his government agencies to act immediately to stabilize the livelihoods of residents in a city locked down over coronavirus concerns, state media reported Thursday.

North Korea declared an emergency and locked down Kaesong near the inter-Korean border in late July after finding a suspected virus case there. It hasn't confirmed yet if the person tested positive and still says the country hasn't had a single case of COVID-19, a claim questioned by outside experts.

Kim presided over a meeting Wednesday of the ruling Workers' Party's executive policy council where they discussed a special supply of food and funds to Kaesong, the Korean Central News Agency said. The report didn't specify the measures that were to be taken.

North Korea has said the suspected virus patient is a runaway who had fled to South Korea three years ago before slipping back to Kaesong last month. Some experts speculate North Korea is aiming to hold South Korea responsible for a potential virus spread in the North or try to save its face before winning aid items from the South.

Describing its anti-virus efforts as a "matter of national existence," North Korea earlier this year shut down nearly all cross-border traffic, banned foreign tourists and mobilized health workers to quarantine anyone with symptoms. But the Kaesong lockdown is the first such known measure taken in a North Korean city to stem the pandemic.

Foreign experts say a coronavirus outbreak in North Korea could cause dire consequences because of its fragile public health care infrastructure and chronic lack of medical supplies. They are also skeptical about North Korea's claim of having had no infections because the country shares a long, porous border with China, its biggest trading partner, where the pandemic emerged last year.

Kaesong, a city with an estimated population of 200,000, is just north of the heavily fortified land border with South Korea. It once hosted the Koreas' jointly run industrial complex, which has been shut since 2016 amid nuclear tensions, and an inter-Korean liaison office North Korea demolished earlier this year.

US sending highest official to Taiwan since ties cut in 1979

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The U.S. secretary of Health and Human Services is scheduled to visit Taiwan in coming days in the highest-level visit by an American Cabinet official since the break in formal diplomatic relations between Washington and Taipei in 1979.

The visit by Alex Azar, and especially a planned meeting with Taiwan's president, will likely create new friction between the U.S. and China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary. Taiwan is a key irritant in the troubled relationship between the world's two largest economies, which are also at odds over trade, technology, territorial claims in the South China Sea and China's response to the coronavirus pandemic.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China has lodged "solemn complaints" over the visit with U.S. officials in both Beijing and Washington.

"The Taiwan issue is the most important and sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations," Wang said at a daily briefing. He said Washington needs to stop all forms of official contact with Taiwan and make good on its commitment to Beijing to "avoid serious damage to China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait."

The U.S. maintains only unofficial ties with Taiwan in deference to Beijing, but is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment.

The American Institute in Taiwan, which operates as Washington's de facto embassy on the island, said Wednesday that Azar's "historic visit will strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan partnership and enhance U.S-Taiwan cooperation to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic."

In a tweet, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it looks forward to welcoming Azar and his delegation. "This is the highest-level visit by a U.S. Cabinet official since 1979! Taiwan and the U.S. are like minded partners cooperating closely in combating coronavirus and promoting freedom democracy & human rights worldwide."

The ministry said Azar will meet with independence-minded President Tsai Ing-wen, with whose government Beijing cut off virtually all contacts four years ago, and with Foreign Minister Joseph Wu and top health officials.

Tsai tweeted to Azar that "Your timely visit is another testament to the strong Taiwan-US partnership based on our longstanding friendship & shared values."

AIT said Azar will discuss the disease, global health and Taiwan's role as a supplier of medical equipment and technology.

The visit is believed to be scheduled for next week, although AIT said details on the timing and agenda would be announced later.

Azar would be the first HHS secretary to visit Taiwan and the first Cabinet member to visit in six years, the last being then-Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy. His Cabinet ranking is higher than previous U.S. visitors.

World

Negligence probed in deadly Beirut blast amid public anger

BEIRUT (AP)—Investigators probing the deadly blast that ripped across Beirut focused Wednesday on possible negligence in the storage of tons of a highly explosive fertilizer in a waterfront warehouse, while the government ordered the house arrest of several port officials.

International aid flights began to arrive as Lebanon's leaders struggled to deal with the widespread damage and shocking aftermath of Tuesday's blast, which the Health Ministry said killed 135 people and injured about 5,000 others.

Public anger mounted against the ruling elite that is being blamed for the chronic mismanagement and carelessness that led to the disaster. The Port of Beirut and customs office is notorious for being one of the most corrupt and lucrative institutions in Lebanon where various factions and politicians, including Hezbollah, hold sway.

The investigation is focusing on how 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive chemical used in fertilizers, came to be stored at the facility for six years, and why nothing was done about it.

Losses from the blast are estimated to be between $10 billion to $15 billion, Beirut Gov. Marwan Abboud told Saudi-owned TV station Al-Hadath, adding that nearly 300,000 people are homeless.

"Beirut as we know it is gone and people won't be able to rebuild their lives," said Amy, a woman who swept glass from a small alley beside

AP

A drone picture shows the scene of an explosion at the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020.

by a tall building that served as a showroom for a famous Lebanese designer and was a neighborhood landmark.

"This is hell. How are they (people) going to survive. What are they going to do?" she said, blaming officials for lack of responsibility and "stupidity."

Hospitals were overwhelmed by the injured. One that was damaged in the blast had to evacuate all its patients to a nearby field for treatment.

It was the worst single explosion to strike Lebanon, a country whose history is filled with destruction—from a 1975-1990 civil war, conflicts with Israel and periodic terrorist attacks.

Lebanon already was on the brink of collapse amid a severe economic crisis and the coronavirus pandemic. Many have lost their jobs and seen their savings evaporate because of a currency crisis. Food security is a worry, since the country imports nearly all its vital goods and its main port is now devastated. The government is strapped for cash.

A senior U.S. Defense Department official and member of the U.S. intelligence community said there were no indications the explosion was the result of an attack by either a nation state or proxy forces. Both spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss intelligence briefings publicly. They told AP that at the moment, the explosion seems to have been caused by improper storage of explosives.

Fueling speculation that negligence was to blame for the accident, an official letter circulating online showed the head of the customs department had warned repeatedly over the years that the huge stockpile of ammonium nitrate stored in the port was a danger and had asked judicial officials for a ruling on a way to remove it.

Ammonium nitrate is a component of fertilizer that is potentially explosive. The 2,750-ton cargo had been stored at the port since it was confiscated from a ship in 2013, and on Tuesday it is believed to have detonated after a fire broke out nearby.

The 2017 letter from the customs chief to a judge could not be immediately confirmed, but state prosecutor Ghassan Oueidat ordered security agencies to start an immediate investigation into all letters related to the materials stored at the port, as well as lists of those in charge of maintenance, storage and protection of the hangar.

In the letter, the customs chief warned of the "dangers if the materials remain where they are, affecting the safety of (port) employees" and asked the judge for guidance. He said five similar letters were sent in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The letter proposes the material be exported or sold to a Lebanese explosives company. It is not known if there was a response.

Badri Daher, the head of the customs department, confirmed to the local LBC TV channel that there were five or six such letters to the judiciary. He said his predecessor also pleaded with the judiciary to issue orders to export the explosive materials "because of how dangerous they are" to the port and staff there.

Daher said it was his duty to "alert" authorities of the dangers but that is the most he could do. "I am not a technical expert."

President Michael Aoun vowed before a Cabinet meeting that the investigation would be transparent and that those responsible will be punished.

"There are no words to describe the catastrophe that hit Beirut last night," he said.

After the meeting, the Cabinet ordered an unspecified number of Beirut port officials put under house arrest pending the investigation.

The government also said public schools and some hotels will be opened for the homeless and promised unspecified compensation for the victims.

8 Western nations urge Russian forces to leave Georgia

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United States and seven European countries marked Friday's 12th anniversary of the conflict between Russia and Georgia with a call to Moscow to withdraw forces from Abkhazia and South Ossetia and allow medical evacuations and aid deliveries especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The western nations said after a closed briefing to the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday by Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenca that Russia's continuing military presence in Abkhazia and South Ossetia and its recognition of "the so-called independence of the regions" violates Georgia's territorial integrity and undermines its sovereignty.

Georgia made a botched attempt to regain control of its breakaway province of South Ossetia during the presidency of Mikhail Saakashvili, sparking the war with Russia that began on Aug. 7, 2008. Russia recognized the independence of South Ossetia as well as the breakaway province of Abkhazia and set up military bases there.

The U.S. and European nations said in a joint statement that they are "extremely concerned" about Russia's "intensification of the so-called `borderization process' over the past year, including during the global COVID-19 pandemic."

They said Russia's actions further divide communities and put at risk "the health and lives of the conflict-affected population."

"Throughout this already challenging time, the de-facto authorities exercising effective control over the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have continued the practice of arbitrary detentions along the administrative boundary lines," the statement said. "De facto South Ossetian authorities have repeatedly denied emergency medical evacuations and incoming humanitarian aid."

The U.S., Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, Norway and Ireland also expressed concern about "the ongoing disinformation campaign by Russia about the pandemic and related health issues."

"These acts prolong the conflict, threaten peace and stability, interfere with the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and negatively impact the health and safety of people across Georgia, destabilizing the region as a whole," the eight nations said.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador Dmitry Polyansky responded, tweeting that the joint statement is "A beautiful fiction. But only a fiction."

Top court rules Brazil must protect indigenous in pandemic

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)—The Brazilian Supreme Court ordered President Jair Bolsonaro's administration Wednesday to adopt measures to shield Indigenous peoples from the new coronavirus, in a vote that came hours after a prominent Indigenous leader died from COVID-19.

The justices voted unanimously in favor of forcing the government to install health checkpoints for all isolated Indigenous villages and to draft and implement a plan for removing outsiders now in protected areas illegally, such as gold miners. Two of the court's 11 justices were absent.

Justice Luís Roberto Barroso, who was responsible for the case, said Wednesday that removal of miners associated with a series of environmental crimes like deforestation and illegal extraction is an "imperative measure" that has been neglected by the government for decades.

As the court's hearing opened Monday, Barroso had said: "The world is not looking at us in horror by chance. It's because there are consequences for the water cycle, for biodiversity, for climate change."

He also said the entry of outsiders into Indigenous territories increases risk of coronavirus infections.

The presidency's press office referred a request for comment on the ruling to the human rights ministry, which didn't immediately respond.

The case was filed by the Indigenous organization APIB and six opposition parties after Bolsonaro last month vetoed parts of a bill that Congress approved to safeguard Indigenous groups from the pandemic, including one to require the provision of drinking water, disinfectants and personal hygiene goods. The president said the vetoed sections would force expenditures without demonstrating the budgetary impact, which would be unconstitutional.

Bolsonaro took office in 2019 with pledges to develop the vast Amazon region and has repeatedly said he opposes relatively small Indigenous groups controlling vast swaths of territory. He has also consistently downplayed the severity of the pandemic.

Earlier Wednesday, a leader of the Yawalapiti ethnic group in the Upper Xingu River region, Aritana Yawalapiti, died from COVID-19 in a hospital in the capital of Goias state. He was 71.

According to APIB's tally, which includes health ministry figures and information from local leaders, there have been 22,325 coronavirus infections and 633 deaths among Indigenous people.

"This pandemic is opening up several social problems that devastate the Indigenous communities," APIB's lawyer, Luiz Eloy Terena, said by phone.

Off The Wall

S. Korean tries washing money over virus fears, suffers loss

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Money laundering is not a good idea, as a South Korean found out when he or she put banknotes in a washing machine to remove possible traces of the coronavirus.

Officials say the loss was considerable.

The person living in Ansan city, near Seoul, placed an unspecified amount of 50,000-won ($42) bills in a washing machine earlier this year. Some of the money was seriously damaged, and the person reached out to the Bank of Korea to find whether it could be exchanged for new bills.

Under bank rules on the exchange of damaged, mutilated and contaminated banknotes, the person was provided with the new currency totaling about 23 million won ($19,320), the Bank of Korea said in a statement.

Bank official Seo Jee Woun said the number of 50,000-won bills the bank exchanged at half value was 507. She said the bank doesn't count the number of bills that it cannot exchange because damage is too big.

She said bank officials didn't know exactly how much money the person tried to wash.

She said the loss would still be "considerable."

How much the central bank should exchange in a situation like this depends on how seriously banknotes are damaged. The bank can provide the new currency at face value if damage is minimal, but at half value or not at all if damage is significant.

BANK OF KOREA VIA AP

This undated photo provided by the Bank of Korea on Friday, July 31, 2020, shows South Korean banknotes damaged after being put in a washing machine in South Korea.

The amount in question was condolence money given by relatives, friends and others during a family funeral, according to the bank.

The person has been only identified by family name Eom. Bank officials gave no further personal information citing privacy law.

How about microwaving money?

According to the bank, another person, surnamed Kim, put bills in a microwave over similar coronavirus concerns earlier this year. The bank exchanged Kim's damaged money with the new currency worth 5.2 million won ($4,370). Seo said Kim's losses were not big.

South Korea's central bank has advised the public to avoid putting banknotes in a microwave saying its disinfection effect is unclear. Anti-virus guidelines in South Korea don't include sterilizing money in a washing machine either.

Long haul: Dog lost on South Carolina highway found in Miami

MIAMI (AP)—A pet dog that jumped out of a car window on a South Carolina highway has been found two weeks later, nearly 600 miles (966 kilometers) away in Miami, according to a relative of the owner.

The dog named Belle escaped from the moving car near Charleston on July 15, according to Tim Whitfield, whose 90-year-old mother owns Belle.

Whitfield put out a call for help on Facebook at the time and said that he bought the puppy for his mother after her dog of 16 years recently died. She was "heartbroken" after hearing the dog was lost, Whitfield added.

After nearly two weeks of searching, Whitfield learned over the weekend that a car of Florida residents grabbed Belle out of traffic after spotting the animal while traveling through Charleston to Miami, WCIV-TV reported Sunday.

The rescuers said they saved Belle because they were afraid she was going to be hit by oncoming cars, the station reported. They then tracked down Whitfield through social media posts.

Whitfield thanked all the people who helped share Belle's story in a message posted to Facebook on Sunday.

"A great reminder that when all seems lost, hope must be the constant thought," he said.

Rhode Island boy digs up massive 2 1/2-pound mollusk

NARRAGANSETT, R.I. (AP)—An 11-year-old Rhode Island boy clamming with his grandfather found a giant quahog that is thought to be one of the largest ever harvested in state waters.

Cooper Monaco, of Wakefield, found the massive mollusk Monday in the Weekapaug section of Westerly, and donated it to the University of Rhode Island's Marine Science Research Facility in Narragansett, the university said in a statement Thursday.

The clam is 5.75 inches (14.5 centimeters) across and weighs nearly 2 1/2 pounds (1.3 kilograms). The state Department of Environmental Management does not keep quahog records, but a typical quahog grows to about 4 inches (10 centimeters) across, the university said.

"I was down on my hands and knees in the water looking for clams, and I touched this huge rock thing," Cooper said in the statement. "I always pull out rocks and throw them to the side and look under them. And then I felt the edge of it and I thought, 'holy moly, this is a clam.' So I pulled it out. It was amazing."

He knew it was unsually large, so told his mother not to cook it.

Ed Baker, the manager of the URI Marine Science Research Facility, plans to put the quahog on display.

Couple in Confederate flag flap finds Scandinavian solution

ST. JOHNS, Mich. (AP)—A couple who came under attack for displaying the Norwegian flag outside their mid-Michigan inn because some observers mistook it for a Confederate flag have found another way to show their Scandinavian pride.

Greg and Kjersten Offenbecker, who own The Nordic Pineapple in St. Johns, outside Lansing, took Norway's flag down last month after being accused of promoting racism, the Lansing State Journal reported.

They are replacing it with a vimple, a type of long, pennant-shaped flag that can be seen displaying various designs across Scandinavia. The Offenbecker's vimple will have the colors of the Norwegian flag—a red background with a blue cross superimposed on a white cross—in a nod to Kjersten Offenbecker's grandfather who was born in Norway.

The colors of the Norwegian flag are similar to the Confederate flag, but the patterns and symbols are different. The Confederate flag is red with a blue "X" containing white stars.

After they removed the Norwegian flag last month, people around the globe contacted them and urged them to put it back up, Kjersten Offenbecker said. Many suggested different ways to display the flag. Someone in Norway suggested a vimple, which isn't an official national flag.

Daisy the St. Bernard recovers from her mountain ordeal

LONDON (AP)—Don't worry: Daisy—the St. Bernard who reversed mountain rescue conventions—is fine.

The owners of the dog who collapsed while descending England's tallest mountain says she's recovering well after a mountain rescue team helped her to safety .

Sixteen volunteers from Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team spent nearly five hours rescuing Daisy last week—after the 55 kilogram (121 pound) dog collapsed while descending Scafell Pike.

Daisy was displaying signs of pain in her rear legs and was refusing to move, having decided she had had enough. After consulting with a veterinarian's office, rescuers administered some pain relief and adjusted a stretcher designed for humans to be dog-friendly.

Daisy needed a bit of persuasion and a few treats before settling down with her chin resting on the head guard of the stretcher as she was carried down. Rescue workers said it wasn't all that different from lending a hand to humans in trouble.

"I think Daisy probably knows, even though she can't say it, how grateful she is," owner Su Hall told the BBC. She and her husband Jason praised the work of the rescue team, all of whom are volunteers.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman with husband's bones gets close look at Munich Airport

BERLIN (AP)—Police at Munich Airport got a surprise during their search of a wooden box being transported by a 74-year-old passenger that turned out to contain the bones of the woman's dead husband, authorities said Tuesday. Customs officials, a doctor and prosecutors were called in, and they determined no crime had been committed, German news agency dpa reported. After questioning the woman and her 52-year-old daughter, police learned the pair were on their way from Greece back to their native Armenia via Munich and Kyiv. The mother said her husband died in 2008 and was buried in Thessaloniki, Greece and that she and her daughter decided to bring his remains home to a final resting place in Armenia, police said. Following the short investigation, the two women were allowed to continue on their journey with the boxed remains.

New Wisconsin justice sworn in during ultramarathon

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—New Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Jill Karofsky has finished her 100-mile (161-kilometer) ultramarathon after being sworn in mid-run. Karofsky, who finished the run Sunday, was sworn in around 1 p.m. Saturday at the 35-mile marker of her route in south-central Wisconsin. State Supreme Court Justice Rebecca Dallet administered the oath of office in Basco. Karofsky began running Saturday at 6 a.m. WMTV-TV reports the run took her about 34 hours to complete. Karofsky shared an image of herself at mile 99 on Twitter around 3 p.m. Sunday. The liberal-leaning Karofsky defeated incumbent Daniel Kelly in April to narrow the court's conservative majority to 4-3.

Minnesota man sells '57 pickup for $75 he paid 44 years ago

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A Minnesota man sold the 1957 Chevy pickup he drove for 44 years for $75, the same price he paid decades ago. Bob Sportal of Prinsburg handed over the key last month to the grandson of the man he bought the truck from, KARE-TV reported. Sportal was in his early 20s when he bought the rusty pickup from a retiring farmer. He drove the truck to work every day at a local grain elevator until he retired five years ago. Sportal kept driving the truck but decided to sell it to Tom Leenstra, grandson of the late John VanDerVeen, who originally sold the truck to Sportal. "It's like riding with my Grandpa again," Leenstra said. The truck has taken on antique value, but Sportal decided to sell it for what he paid for it. "It's going in the family, so that's the most important thing," Sportal said.

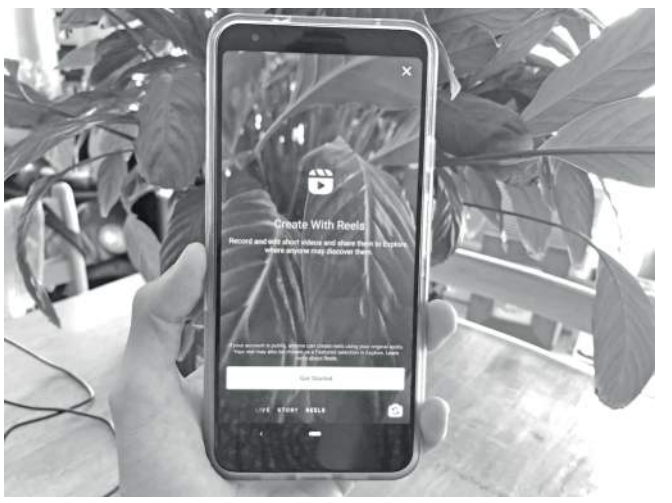
Science & Technology

Facebook launches its new TikTok clone, Instagram Reels

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Facebook's Instagram is officially launching its answer to the hit short video app TikTok—Instagram Reels.

The new Instagram feature will let users record and edit 15-second videos with audio, and will let users add visual effects. Users will be able to share Reels with followers in Instagram in a dedicated section called Reels in Explore, or in the Story feature where posts disappear after 24 hours.



AP
Instagram Reels is displayed on a mobile phone on Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020 in New York.

The Reels option will be available in the Instagram app. The company has been testing Reels in Brazil since November and in France, Germany and India since earlier this summer.

Facebook has a long tradition of cloning competitive services. The Instagram "Story" feature, which lets people share photos and videos that expire in 24 hours, is similar to Snapchat. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg faced tough questioning about the company's habit of copying rivals before a congressional hearing on July 29.

Facebook earlier launched a TikTok knockoff called Lasso in 2018, but closed that down in July. It also tried services similar to Snapchat called Slingshot and Poke before Instagram Stories caught on. But those were separate apps—it might have more success with a feature built into Instagram.

In fact, copying Snapchat's features was successful for Instagram in part because Snapchat was difficult to figure out for new users. They were already comfortable with Instagram. But TikTok is very easy to use -- easier than Instagram—and part of its appeal is that you're able to sit back and scroll endlessly with just swipes, without the need to follow anyone or post anything.

Even with the success of Stories, Snapchat remains popular with younger people, though the Instagram feature has likely limited its growth. Snapchat has more daily users than Twitter.

For Reels to succeed, Facebook will have to lure video creators away from TikTok.

Virginia first to roll out pandemic app from Apple, Google

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Virginia has rolled out a smartphone app to automatically notify people if they might have been exposed to the coronavirus, becoming the first U.S. state to use new pandemic technology created by Apple and Google.

But hopes for a nationwide app that can work seamlessly across state borders remain unrealized, and there are no known federal plans to create one. State officials say their new app won't work as well outside Virginia, at least until a group of coordinating public health agencies gets a national server up and running and other states join in.

Virginia's free Covidwise app is available in Apple and Android app stores as of Wednesday. State officials, who repeatedly emphasized its privacy-protection features, announced the launch of a statewide public information campaign encouraging people to download and use it.

"Now, I want you all to listen to this very closely. I want to be clear, this app, Covidwise, does not—I will repeat that—does not track or store your personal information. It does not track you at all," Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said at a news conference.

The technology arrives nearly four months after Apple and Google partnered to create the software for public health agencies trying to contain the spread of the pandemic. Canada and a number of countries in Europe and elsewhere have already rolled out apps using the tech companies' framework.

The app, developed by SpringML, based in Pleasanton, California, relies on Bluetooth wireless technology to detect when someone who downloaded the app has spent time near another app user who later tests positive for the virus. Those who test positive can anonymously notify others to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Instead of recording someone's geographic location, the app tracks proximity—by keeping an encrypted record of when two phones send short-range signals to one other.

"It doesn't know where you are. It just knows the distance, it just knows how strong the proximity was," said Suresh Soundararajan, the Virginia health department's chief information technology officer.

The department will verify positive test results and issue app users who want to report them a pin number tied to their lab records in order to prevent malicious actors from sharing false positives.

Science Matters
Carsten Egevang photo
Ice Age land bridge led from Asia to Americas
Arctic ice cap
SIBERIA
NORTH AMERICA
ASIA
Ancient Zhokov dog
Greenland sled dog
Alaskan malamute
Siberian husky
Pleistocene wolf (prehistoric)
Siberian wolf
Gray wolf
Wolf
Dog
Wolf-like dogs old friends of humans
Sled dogs are a much older family and adapted to Arctic conditions much earlier than once thought. They have worked for humans for over 9,500 years.
Sled dogs howl together, just as wolves do
Sled dog DNA reveals their past
1 DNA from a 9,500-year-old dog from Siberia's Zhokhov island was analyzed
2 It showed that different types of sled dogs evolved extremely early
Led to a new interpretation of husky history
2,000 to 3,000 years ago?
Until now, biologists have thought that the different breeds of sled dogs emerged 2,000 to 3,000 years ago – in late antiquity
9,500 years ago?
Now appears the Zhokhov dog and sled dogs had the same common origin in Siberia more than 9,500 years ago
33,000 years ago
DNA of a Siberian wolf that lived 33,000 years ago and new dog DNA evidence show that dogs interbred with wolves that long ago
Iditarod race team
Source: Mikkel Sinding of University of Copenhagen; Shyam Gopalakrishnan of Globe Institute; Science magazine; TNS Photos
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service
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TECH Q&A: How to prevent, and fix, a balky external drive

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*

Q: Last year, the Western Digital external hard drive for my Windows 8.1 PC stopped working. I bought another Western Digital external drive, but it wouldn't work, either. I then bought a Seagate external drive and began using it last November. But by late July, I got an error message saying the external drive couldn't be detected, even though I can see it listed in Windows Explorer. I followed Seagate's instructions to look at the hard drive's properties and discovered that NTFS (New Technology Files System, a type of disk formatting) was missing from the list. In addition, I've twice received warnings that Windows Defender (the antivirus software that comes with Windows 8.1) was turned off. I didn't turn it off, so I turned it back on. What's wrong?

A: If three different external drives have failed to operate properly, your PC must be the source of the problem.

First, let's eliminate malware as a possible cause. Because your Windows Defender was turned off, run the free version of the Malwarebytes security program to make sure your PC doesn't have any malicious software (see tinyurl.com/y3ju6oov). Note that if you are using another antivirus program, Defender will automatically turn off. This is because you should never run more than one antivirus program; running two could dramatically slow the PC. Now that your PC is safe, here are some potential fixes for the external hard drive problem:

■ Sometimes a PC's USB ports can fail. Plug the external drive into a different USB port on the PC (you should have more than one).

Or, if you are plugging the external drive into an external USB hub, try plugging it directly into a PC USB port instead.

■ Open the PC's "device manager (see tinyurl.com/y6kmu2q6) and let Windows automatically update the software driver for the external hard drive (see tinyurl.com/yy62zdnhand and scroll down to "Method 2. Update or reinstall drivers.")

■ If you have disconnected an external hard drive without first safely ejecting it, the drive's software may have been damaged, preventing the PC from recognizing it. This seems likely, because the properties list for your Seagate external drive didn't show "NTFS." Seagate says this means the drive's file system is corrupted and the drive needs to be reformatted.

Because reformatting will erase the drive's data, you should try to retrieve any data on the drive first. You may be able to do that by assigning the drive a new letter so the PC can recognize it. (See tinyurl.com/yy62zdnh and scroll down to "Method 1. Assign a drive letter".)

In the future, you can avoid damage to an external hard drive by safely ejecting it from the PC after use (see tinyurl.com/yazv9o9s and scroll down to "How to safely remove hardware in Windows 8.1.")

Q: Why does my Windows 7 PC still get updates? Didn't Microsoft quit providing Windows 7 security updates in January?

A: You're receiving updates for Microsoft Security Essentials, an antivirus program. But no antivirus program will protect you against the big threat—newly discovered security flaws in Windows 7. You should move to Windows 10.

Life & Style

Kaley Cuoco takes to skies in 'The Flight Attendant'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kaley Cuoco was looking for her next project three years before "The Big Bang Theory" ended. She found it reading a snippet about a book on Amazon.

"The Flight Attendant" is a dark thriller with comedic overtones, letting Cuoco employ the love of laughter she honed for 12 seasons on the CBS comedy. Cuoco said she won a bidding war for the rights to the novel of the same name by Chris Bohjalian.

She stars as Cassie Bowden, a flight attendant who wakes up in the wrong hotel in the wrong bed with a dead man, and has no idea what happened.

Cuoco

"It's kind of an actor's dream to play someone like her," Cuoco said on a video conference Wednesday. "She's got a roller coaster of issues but a heart of gold. She's strong."

Cuoco serves for the first time as an executive producer on the limited series set to air this fall on new streaming service HBO Max.

"It's been total career-changing for me just to see it from the beginning and kind of go with my gut on things and make my own decisions," she said.

The series had filmed five of its eight episodes before production was shut down in early March due to the global coronavirus pandemic. Production is set to resume late this month in New York, with social distancing, rewrites to certain aspects of the script and daily COVID-19 testing for actors working closely together.

"It's not just going through the motions of trying to keep us safe," co-star Zosia Mamet said. "It makes me feel not only safe, but incredibly taken care of."

Cuoco surprised Rosie Perez by agreeing to meet in her Brooklyn neighborhood to discuss the role of a fellow flight attendant. Perez quickly made it clear how she works.

Ex-Trump adviser plans book on future of polarized America

WASHINGTON (AP)—Fiona Hill, a key witness in President Donald Trump's impeachment inquiry, is going to be sharing her views about the future of a polarized America.

The New York-based Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books & Media announced on Wednesday that it has acquired a book by Hill, former deputy assistant to the president and senior director for European and Russian affairs on the National Security Council at the White House.

Hill's testimony last year on Capitol Hill reinforced the central complaint of the impeachment inquiry—that Trump used his leverage over Ukraine, a young Eastern European democracy facing Russian aggression, to pursue political gain.

Senior editor Alex Littlefield acquired North American rights to the book from Andrew Nurnberg Associates, based in London. Hill's book, titled "There Is Nothing for You Here: Opportunity in an Age of Decline," is to be released in the fall of 2021.

"The book will draw on Dr. Hill's deep expertise in the United States and Europe, as well as her personal experience on both continents, to explain how our current, polarized moment is the result of long historical trends—from imperial overreach to postindustrial decline—that have long afflicted Russia and the United Kingdom, and which now are beginning to affect the United States," the publisher said in a statement.

"Hill will describe the origins and growth of deep, geographically concentrated opportunity gaps, and show how they have fueled the rise of populism at home and abroad."

Hill, a British-born coal miner's daughter who became a U.S. citizen in 2002, worked for Republican and Democratic administrations. She said she joined the Trump White House because she shared the Republican president's belief that relations with Russia needed to improve. Still, she was adamant that Russia was gearing up to intervene again in the 2020 U.S. election, declaring, "We are running out of time to stop them."

Selena Gomez takes the heat in new cooking show

By BETH HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Selena Gomez is taking the heat in the kitchen.

The singer-actress slices and dices in "Selena + Chef," debuting Aug. 13 on the new HBO Max streaming service. The 10-episode series was shot in the kitchen of Gomez's new Los Angeles-area house. Her grandparents and two friends, who have been quarantining with her, serve as taste testers.

"I really thought this would be something lighthearted because I was getting definitely down," she said in a video conference Wednesday. "Of course, there's more important things going on but this was an opportunity to make something that could make people smile."

Gomez

Guiding Gomez remotely are chefs Nyesha Arrington, Roy Choi, Tonya Holland, Daniel Holzman, Jon & Vinny, Candice Kumai, Ludo Lefebvre, Antonia Lofaso, Nancy Silverton and Angelo Sosa. They coach her through making such dishes as Korean breakfast tacos, matcha chocolate chip cookies, spicy miso ramen, seafood tostada and cheese souffle.

There was no one off-camera perfectly prepping the ingredients and Gomez didn't glam up her clothing or makeup while chopping and stirring. Remote cameras set up in her kitchen captured Gomez's mishaps that include flames in the oven and squirting juices. She wields sharp knives while struggling with a slimy octopus and pulls organs out of a raw chicken.

UK judge: Meghan friends can stay anonymous in privacy case

LONDON (AP)—A British judge ruled Wednesday that the Duchess of Sussex can keep the names of five close friends secret while she brings a privacy invasion lawsuit against a British newspaper—but he chided both sides in the case for playing out their battle in the media as well as the courtroom.

High Court judge Mark Warby agreed, "for the time being at least," to grant Meghan's request to protect the anonymity of friends who defended her in the pages of a U.S. magazine in order to spare them a "frenzy of publicity" before the case comes to a full trial.

Markle

The former Meghan Markle is suing the publisher of the Mail on Sunday and the MailOnline website over five articles that published portions of a handwritten letter she wrote to her estranged father, Thomas Markle, after her marriage to Prince Harry in 2018.

Meghan, 39, is seeking damages from publisher Associated Newspapers Ltd. for alleged misuse of private information, copyright infringement and data protection breaches.

The duchess asked the judge to prohibit publishing details of female friends who spoke anonymously to People magazine to condemn the alleged bullying she had received from the media. She argued that the friends were not parties to the case and had a "basic right to privacy."

The women's names are included in a confidential court document, but they have been identified in public only as A to E.

Guilt remains 40 years after job reference was withheld

DEAR ABBY: About 40 years ago, I did someone an injustice, and I have felt guilty ever since. I worked for a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., that fired an accounting clerk who was in my small office. I didn't know why she was fired, and I never heard a cross word exchanged between her and her supervisor. She seemed to be capable and friendly.

A prospective employer called me for a reference, and because my company told me that it did not respond to requests for references, I didn't give her one. Ever since, I have wished I had shared what I knew about her. If I was allowed a do-over, I would have told the employer about my positive experience with her and my belief that she was capable and friendly. Her being Black and not having my reference may have increased her difficulty in finding a job. I am sharing this with your readers so they may avoid making a similar mistake.

GUILT-RIDDEN IN TEXAS

DEAR GUILT-RIDDEN: Some companies, on the advice of their legal counsel, strictly adhere to a policy of disclosing only dates of hire and discharge of employees. This has nothing to do with race or ethnicity. It was not a mistake to do as your employers instructed, and you should not feel guilty for having done so.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My heart is heavy as I write this. Since the pandemic started, my father-in-law has called us every couple of weeks to ask if we are safe and OK. I have heard nothing from my own father.

I finally called him, mentioning that I thought he would call to check on us. His response was, "I'm the adult; you should be checking on me." (I have two grown children and two grandchildren, so I was taken aback by the thought that I was not an "adult.") I mentioned that because he is not in a nursing home, in jail or has to go to work, I figured he was much safer than my husband and me, who still must go out to work every day and be in contact with hundreds of people.

I feel like my father doesn't care about us like my father-in-law does. What do you think?

DISAPPOINTED IN FLORIDA

DEAR DISAPPOINTED: I agree that your father doesn't care about you the same way your father-in-law does. He appears to be so centered upon himself that there's little room to worry about his "children's" welfare.

What do I think? I think that if you love your father, you should give him an occasional call, but when you do, expect nothing in return. And you should thank your lucky stars you have a darling father-in-law who takes up the slack.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I have two close, dear friends. They're my inner circle. Both are extroverts and quite talkative. I'm an introvert and quieter. My problem is, I can't get a word in edgewise when we're together. I'm not sure how to tactfully address this subject with them. Any ideas?

INTROVERT IN THE SOUTHWEST

DEAR INTROVERT: Yes. Speak up and say exactly what you told me -- "Hey, folks, I can't get a word in edgewise!" If you say it with a smile, it shouldn't be regarded as insulting because it's the truth.

■■■

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

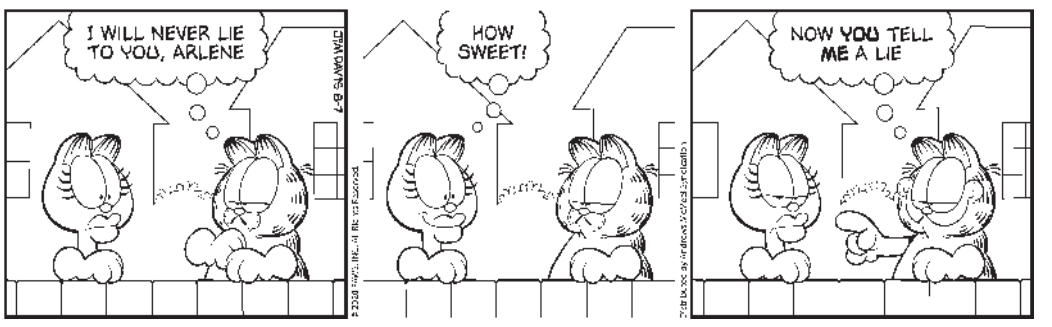
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I LIKE TOYS THAT MAKE A LOT OF RACKET.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THIS WAGON. IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH NOISE.
NEEEE!!
AUGH! WHOAA!
OOMPH!
OOH!
FORTUNATELY, WE DO.

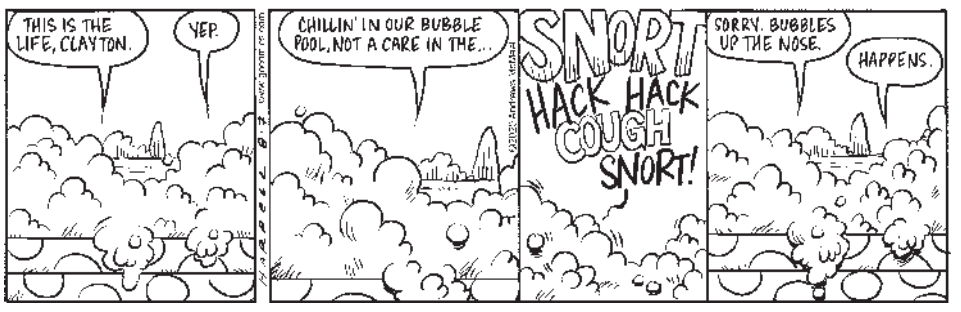
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



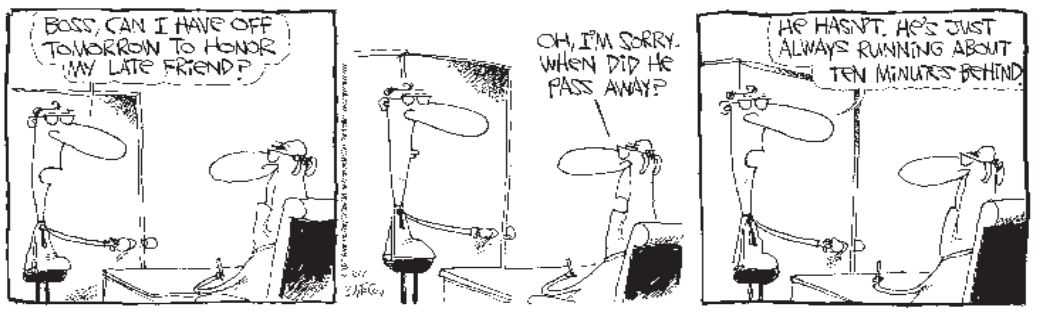
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


BOSS, CAN I HAVE OFF TOMORROW TO HONOR MY LATE FRIEND?
OH, I'M SORRY. WHEN DID HE PASS AWAY?
HE HASN'T. HE'S JUST ALWAYS RUNNING ABOUT TEN MINUTES BEHIND

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Muppet eagle
4 Wine region
8 Test tube
12 Sashimi fish
13 Roster
14 Guesser's words
15 Quaint street-lights
17 Beanies
18 Soak up
19 Santa — winds
21 "Today" rival, briefly
22 Talk turkey?
26 Leers at
29 Prohibit
30 Candy-heart word
31 Ocho —, Jamaica
32 Gloomy guy
33 Singer Mitchell
34 Swelled head
35 Abysmal
36 Roll with a hole
37 Indian instru-ments
39 Author Fleming
40 Texter's chuckle
41 Rhodes locale
45 Lettuce variety
48 Helium, for one
50 Beige
51 NBA's Archibald
52 Dean's list stat
53 Actor Neeson
54 And others (Lat.)
55 Thee

DOWN

1 Long story
2 Melville captain
3 Fail to see
4 Frightens
5 "The Lion King" lion
6 Recipe abbr.
7 "Jumpin' Jack Flash" refrain
8 Word list, for short
9 Lyricist Gershwin
10 Nile biter
11 — Angeles
16 Theater boxes
20 Dijon denial
23 Online journal
24 "Clair de —"
25 Satan's forte
26 Raw materials
27 Leslie Caron role
28 Booty
29 Future flower
32 Fuel conduit
33 "Nasty" singer Jackson
35 Buddy
36 Container for pickles
38 Photo book
39 "— Kick Out of You"
42 Like custard
43 Mafia boss
44 Jacob's twin
45 — canto
46 Here, to Henri
47 Bikini half
49 D.C. baseballer

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	A	S	H		B	M	O	G		Y	A	P	
E	L	L	A		R	A	E			A	S	E	
C	O	L	O	R	T	Y	A	E	D		R	T	E
S	U	M	M	O	N			A	R	D	O	R	
			C	O	N		S	C	R	E	W		
P	A	W	N		W	H	O		F	O	A	M	
I	S	O			A	I	E			R	B	I	
P	U	R	L		G	P	A		I	K	E	A	
		K	I	T	E	S		E	D				
M	E	H	T	A			O	S	I	R	I	S	
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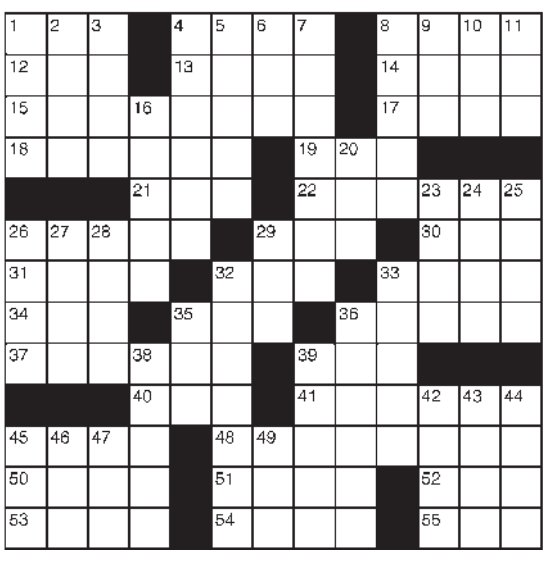
S	Y	E		O	N	C	E		M	I	M	E	
H	A	D		E	T	A	S		S	N	A	P	

Yesterday's answer 8-7



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Charlize Theron, 45; David Mann, 54; David Duchovny, 60; Wayne Knight, 65.

Happy Birthday: You'll see the good and the bad this year, making it easier to use discretion when necessary and to encourage help in the most efficient way possible. What you contribute this year will turn heads and encourage others to follow suit. Don't let the changes others decide to make cause distraction. Personal gain, enlightenment and respect are heading your way. Your numbers are 5, 11, 21, 27, 35, 41, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Your actions will make a statement. Don't take a risk when dealing with your health or affairs of the heart. Stick to your plan, regardless of what others do or say. You'll gain stability by doing what's right and best for you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Inconsistency will be your downfall. Stop second-guessing, and trust your intuition to guide you in the right direction. Positive thoughts will help you deter those trying to lead you astray. Anger will get in the way of your ability to get ahead. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Refuse to let emotional matters stifle your plans. Stay focused on what you are trying to achieve, and say no to anyone who is tempting you with anything that will interfere with your progress. Discipline and hard work will pay off. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* What are you waiting for? Push your ideas and plans through. Be innovative, persistent and ready to challenge anyone who stands between you and what you want. Opportunity is within reach; refuse to let anyone stand in your way. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* You'll get charged up quickly and respond with finesse. The attention you attract will invite criticism as well as praise. Be prepared to stand up for your beliefs and to follow through with your promises. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Handle decisions concerning money, livelihood and reputation with care. The threat of emotional interference is apparent. A mistake will hinder reaching your full potential. Clear your mind, and make practical decisions. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Look at every angle before entering a confrontation. Know what you want and what you are willing to give up. Don't try to change others or a plan that's already in motion. Change your attitude, and do what's best for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Confusion will set in if you believe everything you hear. The changes someone wants you to make will be for his or her benefit, not yours. Rethink your strategy, and consider what makes you happy before you commit to someone's plan. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You can wheel and deal, finalize an agreement, start a new fitness routine or anything else you fancy as long as you thwart interference. Know when to say no, and you'll have more time to follow your dream. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A steady pace forward with little interaction will help you reach your goal. An emotional situation will put you in a precarious position with someone you deal with daily. Concentrate on getting concrete results. Reuse and recycle. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Work hard to finish what you start, and you will get good results and gain respect. Plan something special, celebrate with someone you love or pamper yourself. Don't let anyone coerce you into something you don't want to do. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Get approval from someone you are trying to please before you make a change. Someone's response to your work or attitude will make you consider heading in a different direction. Wait until you have all the facts. A premature move will be costly. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, playful and competitive. You are helpful and sentimental.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1			5				9
5		2	4					
	8				1			
	5		1			8		
3								1
		7			4		5	
			9				8	
					5	4		2
6				7			1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 8/07

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	9	2	7	1	8	6	4	5
4	1	8	5	6	9	2	3	7
5	7	6	2	4	3	1	9	8
9	8	7	6	3	4	5	2	1
6	4	3	1	5	2	8	7	9
2	5	1	8	9	7	4	6	3
1	3	5	9	2	6	7	8	4
8	6	9	4	7	5	3	1	2
7	2	4	3	8	1	9	5	6

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FROZEN COCONUT DAIQUIRIS — Solution: 8 letters

T	T	S	S	P	I	R	A	L	N	E	T	U	L	F
H	R	S	E	O	C	G	E	A	O	G	E	M	I	L
G	S	A	C	R	E	P	E	A	A	N	I	A	A	L
I	H	L	N	D	D	B	R	C	L	I	R	N	T	O
L	A	G	U	R	B	O	A	O	C	X	E	G	K	O
S	K	C	O	I	Ⓐ	W	G	U	O	I	H	O	C	C
I	E	R	R	C	Ⓑ	L	U	P	H	M	S	D	O	I
M	R	A	O	R	Ⓤ	O	S	E	O	I	E	A	C	T
P	C	C	C	M	Ⓒ	G	C	P	L	L	R	R	H	A
L	H	K	K	A	N	N	O	S	O	K	F	O	I	M
E	A	E	S	I	A	P	T	L	M	U	E	D	L	O
C	N	D	N	L	U	R	A	U	L	U	R	L	L	L
I	L	N	A	L	A	T	A	S	T	E	R	E	E	P
U	E	B	A	I	T	R	O	H	S	Q	N	O	D	I
J	R	R	N	W	P	U	R	Y	S	E	R	V	E	D

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Aged, Alcohol, Balance, Bowl, Brugal, Caribbean, Chanler, Chilled, Cocktail, Cool, Coupe, Cracked, Cuba, Diplomatico, Don Q, Drop, El Dorado, Flute, Glass, Iced, Jennings, Juice, Light, Lime, Mango, Milk, Mixing, Ounces, Popular, Poured, Real, Refresher, Rocks, Rums, Served, Shaker, Short, Simple, Slushy, Sour, Spiral, Strain, Sugar, Syrup, Taste, William

Yesterday's Answer: French Fries

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

Darvish hands Cubs 6th straight win

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Yu Darvish pitched seven sharp innings and the Chicago Cubs beat the skidding Kansas City Royals 6-1 on Wednesday night for their sixth straight victory.

Javier Baez drove in two runs for the Cubs (10-2), who handed Kansas City its sixth consecutive defeat. Kris Bryant and Anthony Rizzo each had two hits and scored twice.

Darvish (2-1) was in midseason form for the second straight outing. He gave up five hits, struck out four and walked one.

"Just another great start from him," Chicago manager David Ross said. "I thought he really took off after we took the lead."

With the score 2-1, the Royals' best chance to tie the game came in the sixth when Whit Merrifield was on third with one out. Darvish struck out Ryan O'Hearn and retired Salvador Perez on a grounder, ending the threat.

AP

Chicago Cubs catcher Victor Caratini (7) is called safe by home plate umpire Alex Tosi, during the ninth inning of a baseball game at Kauffman Stadium in Kansas City, Mo., Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020. Kansas City Royals catcher Salvador Perez, top, was late with the tag.

Marlins 1, Orioles 0
Game 1
Marlins 2, Orioles 1
Game 2

Five pitchers combined on a four-hitter for Don Mattingly's undermanned, gritty and first-place Miami Marlins, who beat Baltimore on Wednesday night for a doubleheader sweep.

Brian Anderson homered in opener, and Miami won 1-0 despite getting only two hits.

The sweep kept the Marlins atop the NL East and earned Mattingly his 281st win as Miami's manager, tying Jack McKeon's club record.

In a baseball season complete with new rules and an ever-changing, abbreviated schedule, this doubleheader raised the bar on strange. Not only were both games seven innings apiece, but the Orioles were the home team in the opener and the Marlins served as hosts in the nightcap.

And to top it all, the Marlins won their third straight game since emerging from a coronavirus-prompted layoff that left them with a roster filled with callups, free agents and rookies. Miami has allowed a total of one run and 10 hits in those three games at Camden Yards.

Diamondbacks 14, Astros 7

Kole Calhoun hit his first career inside-the-park homer with the help of a crazy bounce, David Peralta had four RBIs and Arizona used nine-run burst in the fourth inning to beat Houston.

Calhoun hit a pitch from Lance McCullers Jr. (1-1) down the right-field line, and the ball hit the metal base of the fence in the corner, which sent it ricocheting past George Springer and down the warning track into right center. Calhoun standing up with a big grin across his face.

Brewers 1, White Sox 0

Adrian Houser dominated over seven innings and Milwaukee snapped Chicago's six-game winning streak.

Milwaukee held struggling star Christian Yelich out of the lineup, with the 2018 NL MVP and two-time defending NL batting champion mired in a season-opening 3-for-34 slump.

Houser (1-0) simply dazzled on a night when Dallas Keuchel (2-1) was about as good for Chicago. The 27-year-old right-hander gave up five hits and struck out five for the win.

Josh Hader retired all three batters in the ninth for his second save in as many chances.

Twins 5, Pirates 2

Minnesota's Randy Dobnak dominated in his homecoming, allowing three hits in six innings.

Dobnak, who grew up a half-hour south of PNC Park in the Pittsburgh suburb of South Park, didn't walk a batter and struck out just one.

Marwin Gonzalez went 2 for 4 with two RBIs for the Twins. Max Kepler gave Minnesota some breathing room in the ninth with a three-run home run off Pirates' reliever Dovydas Neverauskas.

Blue Jays 2, Braves 1

Hyun-Jin Ryu combined with four relievers on a three-hitter and Toronto beat shorthanded Atlanta.

Ryu (1-1) lasted only five innings but was dominant as he gave up only one hit, an infield single by Adam Duvall in the second. Duvall homered in the seventh off Thomas Hatch. Anthony Bass earned his second save.

The Braves were forced to recast their lineup after placing Ozzie Albies and Matt Adams on the injured list.

Indians 2, Reds 0

Mike Clevinger didn't have his best stuff but did enough to pitch into the sixth inning and lead Cleveland as the Indians wait for manager Terry Francona's return from a gastrointestinal problem.

Clevinger (1-1) worked around five walks, including three in the sixth. The right-hander's strong star—he gave up just two hits—continued a pattern for the Indians, who have had great pitching while their offense remains in a team-wide funk.

Mariners 7, Angels 6

Scorching slugger Kyle Seager hit a three-run homer, rookie Kyle Lewis stayed hot with an RBI single, ad Seattle overcame two home runs by Mike Trout.

Albert Pujols remained on 659 career home runs, one behind Willie Mays on the career list. There were plenty of long balls otherwise.

Athletics 6, Rangers 4

Matt Olson homered twice, Ramon Laureano also went deep and Oakland rallied to beat Texas.

Austin Allen hit his first career homer, a go-ahead, two-run drive in the seventh inning off Ian Gibaut (0-1) in the seventh

Shin-Soo Choo homered on the game's first pitch for the second time in six days for the Rangers.

Dodgers 7, Padres 6

Joc Pederson had two homers and five RBIs, left fielder Chris Taylor threw out Trent Grisham at home plate for the final out and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the San Diego Padres 7-6.

Kenley Jansen made it interesting in the ninth by allowing one run before the game ended on a double play. With runners on the corners, Manny Machado lined out to, who threw out Grisham trying to score the tying run. The Padres challenged but the play stood after review. Jansen earned his fourth save in as many chances.

Giants 4, Rockies 3

Brandon Belt extended his success against Colorado starter Jon Gray with a three-run homer and a double, and San Francisco won despite Nolan Arenado homering in his third straight game.

Logan Webb (1-0) got his first win in his third start of the season.

Gray (0-1) allowed four runs—three earned—in six innings.

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NBA bubble: Race for No. 8 out West quite wild

FLORIDA (AP)—Devin Booker does not like the notion that the Phoenix Suns, whose playoff chances were beyond slim when the season was suspended, should simply be happy to be in the NBA's bubble.

He sees it quite differently.

"People can say we have a nothing-to-lose mentality," Booker said. "We don't look at it like that."

Hard to argue. The Suns, like a lot of other teams out West, have much to play for right now.

The best race in the bubble is the race for the No. 8 seed in the Western Conference—and the right to face LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the Los Angeles Lakers in the first round of the playoffs starting in a couple weeks. The Lakers have already clinched the No. 1 seed, and now get to sit back and watch the mayhem that's about to happen.

Here's the scenario: There are nine days left in the race, with six teams, all with five games remaining, fighting for one spot. It's looking more and more likely that a play-in series, which will occur if the teams finishing eighth and ninth are within four games of one another when the regular season ends, will happen.

And Booker, who fended off both Kawhi Leonard and Paul George on what became the winning jumper as time expired in Phoenix's victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday, has the Suns—who haven't been to the playoffs since 2010—right in the thick of things.

"This whole experience, just being here in the bubble, we wanted to come down here and make some noise," Booker said. "And that's what we're doing."

Memphis still has the upper hand on the No. 8 spot, though the Grizzlies' grip is less than secure there and Portland got within 1 1/2 games of them by beating Houston on Tuesday night. Memphis is 0-3 inside the bubble, still has a brutal schedule and lost Jaren Jackson Jr. for the remainder of the season on Monday to a meniscus tear in his left knee.

As play starts Wednesday, the Grizzlies are still eighth—though Portland, San Antonio, Sacramento, New Orleans and Phoenix are all within that four-game cutoff to force a play-in series.

"We're fighting," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said.

The Spurs are trying to become the first team in NBA history with 23 consecutive playoff appearances. Like the Suns, they were in a precarious spot when the season was halted because of the coronavirus pandemic on March 11.

But a couple wins in the bubble, combined with the play-in opportunity, has breathed new life into the Spurs' chances as well.

The Suns' playoff drought is the second-longest one in the league, topped only by Sacramento. The last time the Kings played a postseason game was 2006.

As with the other clubs in the West's race for No. 8, the Kings are also feeling like they've got a shot.

"We got five games left and if we figure it out—we run these five off—who knows where we are," Kings forward Kent Bazemore said. "We're still right in the thick of things. There isn't a team who's too out in front. ... We're right there. The optimism is still there."

The league was smart in setting up the schedule. Everybody in the race for eighth, in either conference, is done with their seeding games on Aug. 13, one day before the regular season ends.

If play-in series are needed, those games would happen on Aug. 15 and 16. So, by giving all those possible play-in-bound clubs Aug. 14 off, it assures that no team would have to play three consecutive days.

The East race is much simpler: Brooklyn and Orlando lead the way for the last two unclaimed spots on that half of the bracket, and Washington—off to an 0-3 start in the bubble—needs to go at least 4-1 in its final five games to have any chance at forcing a play-in series there.

That means the East field could be finalized in the next couple days.

The West, that looks like it'll go down to the wire.

"Still have a chance to get the playoff spot," Kings guard De'Aaron Fox said. "Just don't let go of the rope."

Or maybe more aptly, don't let the bubble burst.

AP

Utah Jazz's Georges Niang (31) grabs a loose ball in front of Memphis Grizzlies' Grayson Allen (3) and De'Anthony Melton (0) during the second half of an NBA game Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Who's left

A look at the remaining schedule for each contender for the No. 8 seed in the West:

Memphis—Utah (Wednesday), Oklahoma City (Friday), Toronto (Sunday), Boston (Aug. 11), Milwaukee (Aug. 13).

Portland—Denver (Thursday), L.A. Clippers (Saturday), Philadelphia (Sunday), Dallas (Aug. 11), Brooklyn (Aug. 13).

San Antonio—Denver (Wednesday), Utah (Friday), New Orleans (Sunday), Houston (Aug. 11), Utah (Aug. 13).

New Orleans—Sacramento (Thursday), Washington (Friday), San Antonio (Sunday), Sacramento (Aug. 11), Orlando (Aug. 13).

Phoenix—Indiana (Thursday), Miami (Saturday), Oklahoma City (Monday), Philadelphia (Aug. 11), Dallas (Aug. 13).

Sacramento—New Orleans (Thursday), Brooklyn (Friday), Houston (Sunday), New Orleans (Aug. 11), L.A. Lakers (Aug. 13).

CP3 leads Thunder's rout of cold-shooting Lakers

FLORIDA (AP)—Chris Paul had 21 points, seven rebounds and six assists in the Oklahoma City Thunder's 105-86 victory over the poor-shooting Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

Danilo Gallinari scored 19 points and Steven Adams had 18 for the Thunder (42-25), who never trailed in their first win over the Lakers in four meetings this season. Oklahoma City pulled even with Houston for the fifth seed in the Western Conference playoff picture with five games left.

The 86 points were the fewest by the Lakers—and by a Thunder opponent—this season.

"We just tried to stick to the game plan," Paul said. "We tried to keep those guys off the (free throw) line as much as possible. We tried to build a wall up on LeBron when he's pushing it. Just trying to make it hard for them."

LeBron James had 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers (51-16), who had another possibly concerning offensive performance while dropping to 2-2 in the bubble. Los Angeles, which has already clinched the top seed in the West and the Pacific Division title, never held a lead for the first time all season.

76ers 107, Wizards 98

Joel Embiid had 30 points and 11 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers held on to beat the Washington Wizards despite losing two-time All-Star Ben Simmons to a knee injury in the third quarter.

There was no immediate word from the 76ers on the extent of Simmons' injury, which occurred as he landed awkwardly after grabbing an offensive rebound. At the next break in the action he walked gingerly to the locker room and did not return.

He was shown leaving the locker room in street clothes late in the fourth quarter.

Tobias Harris added 17 points for the 76ers, who pulled within a game of the Pacers for fifth place in the Eastern Conference standings.

Thomas Bryant had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the fast-fading Wizards, who have gone 0-4 since the restart and would be eliminated from playoff contention if Orlando and Brooklyn win their games later Wednesday.

Nuggets 132, Spurs 126

Michael Porter Jr. had 30 points and 15 rebounds, and Denver rallied in the fourth quarter to beat San Antonio.

Nikola Jokic added 25 points and 11 assists. Jerami Grant finished with 22 points.

Two days after posting a career-high 37 points in Denver's win over Oklahoma City, Porter stayed hot, scoring 10 of the Nuggets' first 16 points against San Antonio.

San Antonio, which started the day two games behind Memphis for the final playoff spot in the West, dropped to 2-2 since the restart.

Rudy Gay scored 24 points and Derrick White added 23 points and seven assists for the Spurs (29-38).

Jazz 124, Grizzlies 115

Joe Ingles scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter, and Utah kept Memphis winless in the NBA bubble.

Mike Conley had 23 points and seven assists against his former team for the Jazz (43-25), who improved to 2-2 in the seeding round and nudged ahead of Houston (42-25) for the fourth spot in the Western Conference standings.

Dillon Brooks scored 23 points, while Grayson Allen had a career-high 20 points and six 3-pointers as the Grizzlies dropped to 0-4 in the seeding round, further endangering their chances of hanging on to the No. 8 seed in the West playoffs.

Jonas Valanciunas had 21 points and 14 rebounds.

Raptors 109, Magic 99

Fred VanVleet had 21 points and 10 assists, and Toronto held on to beat Orlando.

Pascal Siakam added 15 points and Kyle Lowry finished with eight points, nine rebounds and 10 assists.

Toronto (49-18) has won its last seven dating back to before the hiatus and three straight games since the restart.

The Magic (32-37) missed an opportunity to clinch a playoff spot following Washington's loss to Philadelphia earlier Wednesday. But they maintained their 7 1/2-game lead over the Wizards for the eighth seed with four seeding games to play.

They also may be without forward Aaron Gordon for an undetermined amount of time after he left the game in the third quarter with a left hamstring injury after taking a hard foul from Lowry.

NFL will take billion, double-whammy losses

NEW YORK—In a year when the NFL's ticket-selling framework was poised to produce arguably the richest windfall the league has ever seen, it's now looking like a double-loss is inevitable.

Not only is the NFL staring at losing its traditional ticket revenue—from season-ticket holders and one-off retail buyers —the league has now also lost several of its richest double-dipping resale markets, including the Las Vegas Raiders, Philadelphia Eagles, New York Jets and New York Giants. Those are the first four franchises to completely eliminate fans in 2020, with more venues likely to follow suit in the coming month.

After several years of consolidating the secondary ticket market and cutting out brokers through partnerships with StubHub and others, the NFL will also be losing a back-end revenue stream.

So how deep is that hit? Well, the NFL and its ticket resale partners don't reveal the revenue split on the tickets that get sold on the secondary market through partners. But industry insiders say it's believed to be a considerable percentage of profits generated when NFL tickets are resold through a secondary partner. That means losing that second bite at ticket revenue will deepen the revenue loss tied to fans.

AP

In this Feb. 2, 2020 file photo, fans look search for their seats before the NFL Super Bowl 54 football game between the San Francisco 49ers and Kansas City Chiefs in Miami Gardens, Fla.

It's just another tough reality for a league that has worked hard to dominate its ticket product on the secondary market by cutting official partnerships. And it's exponentially worse in 2020, given that this was the season the league would add two crown jewel stadiums in Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The Raiders, in particular, had been the league's hottest and most-anticipated ticket in 2020, going back to before the COVID-19 pandemic.

To get an idea of how steep the Las Vegas hit could be, the resale platform and researcher TicketiQ placed the Raiders' searing-hot ticket market at nearly $571 million. Meanwhile, the collective worth of the Eagles, Giants and Jets ticket market is estimated to be nearly $759 million.

Add it up and that's an estimated $1.3 billion in ticket value (including the primary market and resale market) that will generate nothing for the league. TicketiQ reached the estimate by calculating the overall value of seats based on what the secondary pricing was at prior to announcements of reduced capacity.

League-wide, TicketiQ placed the value of lost ticket revenue in 2020 at $7 billion if no fans can attend NFL games.

The question now for the NFL and its partners: How many other NFL markets will fall by the wayside?

As of Wednesday, none of the other 28 teams in the league had presented final arrangements for fans.

Rivers in whole new world with Colts

In Indianapolis, Philip Rivers walked into a whole new world at training camp this year.

Masks became standard fare. A slow, finely-turned ramp-up to padded practices became all the rage. And Rivers' go-to look over the past 16 years, clad in Chargers gear, was replaced by Colts attire.

Yes, it will take some getting used to seeing Rivers in new colors but the 38-year-old quarterback already seems to be getting comfortable in his new digs.

"It's a great environment here, from the top down. It's a neat place," Rivers said Wednesday on a Zoom call, emphasizing he also enjoyed his time in Los Angeles and San Diego. "I know it's a new place and I'm still on a high from Day 2 or 3 (of workouts). But it's a great place, a great environment and I'm excited to see what we can get done this year."

The Colts are eager to find out what Rivers has left, too, after signing him to a one-year, $25 million contract in March, with the hope he'd make them a playoff team and possibly a Super Bowl contender.

It's a risky move given the mixed results of other late-career changes.

For every Peyton Manning, who won his second Super Bowl ring after leaving Indy for Denver at age 36, there are Hall of Famers such as the late John Unitas or Joe Namath who struggled.

Some critics contend Rivers belongs in the second category after throwing 20 interceptions last season, tied for the second-highest total of his career and third most in the NFL last season. His rating of 85.5, the lowest since 2007, only fueled the perception Rivers was nearing the end of a brilliant career.

SCHORR

From Page 24

legiate ranks the same way he approached his games in the CNMI and in Pacific Oceania.

"I'm going to approach it like any other year, hard work on and off the court, try to perform at the highest level each time, and support my team," Schorr said.

The three-time Tan Siu Lin Foundation/Northern Marianas Sports Association Male Student Atlete of the Year awardee was in the first batch of William Woods' new recruits, joining Montenegro's Mladen Novovic, Czech Republic's Vitek Subert, Kansas' Landon Hover, and Houston's Isaiah Buse. Australia's Benjamin Grumley completed the Owls' freshmen players list after signing with William Woods in May.

"Schorr is another international kid who came and visited all the way from Saipan. I couldn't be happier that he did. He comes from a great family and a hardworking family. They are really genuine and I have great confidence is his ability to step in for the seniors that have graduated," said William Woods coach Chance Joost, who will call the shots for the Owls for the first time.

Rounding out William Woods' roster for the 2020-2021 season are seniors Jack Campbell, Nathan Cooke, Zach Frisbie, Corey Hockenbury, and Aaron Westerlund, junior Patrick Shelepov, and graduate student Maurice Bauens.

The Owls compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and is grouped with Central Baptist, Columbia College, Hannibal-LaGrange, Harris-Stowe State, Lyon College, Missouri Baptist, Saint Louis College, Stephens College, and William Baptist in the American Midwest Conference. William Woods also plays in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Regionals, which is usually scheduled in the last quarter of the year after the regular season that begins in February.

Before the 2019-2020 season was canceled due to the pandemic, the Owls had an impressive 5-2 record, beating William Jewell College, 6-1; Quincy, 5-2; Campsbellesville University, 4-0; Illinois Springfield, 4-3; and PcPherson College, 5-2. William Woods absorbed its two losses at the hands of Tennessee Wesleyan, 2-5, and Reinhardt, 1-4. The Owls were also ranked No. 12 in the NAIA Coaches' Top 25 Poll after winning over McPherson before the remaining games of the season were scrapped.

FLASHBACK

From Page 24

cage, Alvarez and Camacho both scored victories in the first round of their respective bouts in the PXC 49 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Guam.

Alvarez defeated the Philippines' Jessie Rafols via rear-naked choke submission in their flyweight bout, while Camacho had knockout victory over Japan's Kengo Ura in their lightweight duel.

Camacho took less than five minutes to beat Ura, as the Marianas warriors went on the offensive right at the get-go. His right hook hit Ura on the left jaw and brought the Japanese down to the canvas. Ura stood up only to be punished anew by Camacho, this time with a combination and followed it up with a big right to finish off the hapless Japanese fighter with 37 seconds left in the opening round.

Alvarez was also aiming for a KO over Rafols, but when an opportunity to win via submission was presented to the Trench Tech standout, he grabbed it. Alvarez, actually, got into trouble first when his Filipino foe attempted a guillotine choke on him before the former managed to escape. The two fighters then battled it out down the canvas and with Alvarez seeing Rafols puffing due to fatigue, the CNMI made the move, earning the win at the 3:46 mark of Round 1.

Both Alvarez and Camacho dedicated their victories to the Commonwealth residents, as their wins came just a few days after the islands were hit by Super Typhoon Soudelor.

PXC PHOTO

In this 2015 file photo, the CNMI's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, top, grapples with the Philippines Jessie Rafols in their flyweight bout in the PXC 49 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Guam.

PXC PHOTO

In this 2015 file photo, Frank "The Crank" Camacho, right, watches Japan's Kengo Ura kiss the canvas during their lightweight duel in the PXC 49 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Guam.

Darvish hands Cubs 6th straight win

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Sports

NBA bubble: Race for No. 8 out West quite wild

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Schorr awaits collegiate debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's Robbie Schorr has been included on the 13-man roster of the William Woods University men's tennis team for the 2020-2021 season.

Schorr is one of six rookies on the Owls' lineup and has attended a few online meetings of the team since leaving Saipan last Aug. 3 to begin a new journey in his promising tennis career as well as his pursuit for higher education.

"I won't be going to campus until Aug. 17 because I have to do a two-week quarantine somewhere off campus. I've had a couple zoom calls with the team and have a group chat so I think that was a good way to get to know them before classes start," said Schorr, who will major in Exercise Science at the Fulton, Missouri-based university.

There's no schedule yet for the new tennis season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but when training sessions or competitions begin, the Pacific Games gold medalist will treat his debut in the col-

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The CNMI's Robbie Schorr is now in Missouri waiting for his collegiate debut with the William Woods University.

Flashback: 'The Crank' and Pikaboo win; Chentsova delivers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It was a fruitful day for the islands' pride on Aug. 7, 2015, as Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez and Frank "The Crank" Camacho triumphed in Pacific Xtreme Combat 49 and swimmer Victoria Chentsova set a national record.

Chentsova broke one of the oldest marks in the CNMI swim record books after competing in the 800m freestyle race in the 16th FINA World Championships in Kazan, Russia. The Saipan Swim Club swimmer clocked in at 9:48.87 on Heat 1 of the qualifying races for the 800m freestyle event to smash the then nearly 20-year-old record of fellow SSC swimmer Anneka Sakovich, who logged 9:50.22 on Aug. 18, 1995.

Besides earning the national record, Chentsova also set the mark in the 17 to 18 age group. She joined the 400m freestyle race before the 800m freestyle event and logged an age group record after registering 4:44.15, surpassing the 14-year mark of another SSC swimmer, Xenavee Pangelinan (4:45.21 on July 29, 2001).

Meanwhile, on the octagon

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2015 file photo, the CNMI's Victoria Chentsova competes in the 800m freestyle event in the 16th FINA World Championships at the Kazan Arena, in Kazan, Russia.

PXC PHOTO

In this 2015 file photo, the CNMI's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, rear, uses a rear-naked choke to beat the Philippines Jessie Rafols in their flyweight bout in the PXC 49 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Guam.